Our doors are open – let’s make history together!

Since our historic sites opened on May 1st, Connecticut Landmarks has had a strong start to our 2021 season. On a beautiful Saturday, over 2,000 visitors descended on the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden to purchase plants and handmade goods at May Market, and we were delighted to see each and every one of them! Hosted by the Suffield Garden Club, the market was part of the town’s A Day in Suffield initiative.

May Market had the “single largest attendance at the Phelps-Hatheway House in recent history,” said Site Administrator Lynn Mervosh. “They waited in a line that extended toward High Street. Plans for 2022 have already begun and we hope to see you there!” Be sure to visit during The Suffield 350th Anniversary Parade on Saturday, October 9th, where the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden (celebrating its own 260th anniversary!) will be a featured stop.

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Hello
Members & Friends,

I am thrilled to welcome you to our newsletter. With about nine months under my belt, I’m settling into the leadership of Connecticut Landmarks. I have found that this organization has a stunning collection of important American architecture with a compelling tapestry of stories. We have a dedicated and diligent Board of Trustees and an equally active and focused staff. All of this is demonstrated in the strong start we have had in 2021.

Our guests and members have started to return! We aren’t quite out of the COVID-19 woods yet, but we are seeing exciting signs of growth. Many of you reading this newsletter are part of that story through your giving and your support. I can’t wait to meet as many of you as possible so we can find out how better to serve our guests, members, and friends.

This season, I’m excited about the big events happening in our communities. We recently marked Juneteenth at the Hempsted Houses, with historian Joe McGill and members of the New London community gathering to reflect on the lives of the people who were enslaved at the house, and past and present struggles for freedom. And, we listened when you asked for the Hale Homestead encampment to return: come on August 21st to see Revolutionary War re-enactors, vendors, and plenty of family-friendly activities. Peering ahead into the fall, I’m excited by the variety of programming that is being finalized. Be sure to watch our website (ctlandmarks.org) for all the details.

I thank you for being part of this organization as we celebrate our 85th anniversary. I hope you can join me by visiting, contributing, or sharing our story. See you soon!

Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director
Twitter: @CTLDirector

Free Admission Memorial Day - Labor Day
Active duty military personnel & their families enjoy free admission all summer long. A collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense. The Nathan Hale Homestead also offers free admission to Veterans all season long.
Conservator and fashion historian Renee Walker-Tuttle brought new historically-informed clothing, shoes, accessories and bedding to the Hempsted Houses in New London. The clothes help tell the story of what the enslaved people who lived at the site — Adam Jackson and a woman known only as Dinah — would have worn for work, church, and daily life in the 18th and 19th centuries. Walker-Tuttle worked with Joshua Hempsted's remarkable nearly 50-year diary, newspaper articles, runaway ads, and other historic documents to develop the collections.

“There is a belief that there is a lack of content or documentation of enslaved people in history, but the key is knowing where to look,” Walker-Tuttle said. “The American institution of slavery was built on textiles, from the clothing enslaved people wore, to the things they used in their daily lives, to the items they produced, so using textiles to tell their stories is so important.”

In addition to the clothing, Walker-Tuttle created a display showing how flax was painstakingly processed for use in clothing production at the Hempsted property. Additional exhibit elements will be installed at the Hempsted Houses over the course of this season. Visit soon to see what’s new!

Connecticut Landmarks’ Historic Properties on the Small Screen

Lights, Camera, Action! Connecticut Landmarks’ historic properties are ready for their close-up. Did you see the activity at the Butler-McCook House & Garden and Isham-Terry House this past October? We were thrilled to serve as a set for numerous episodes of the hit HISTORY® Channel nonfiction series “The Food That Built America”. Episode two, “The Chocolate Rush,” was shot in the Isham-Terry Kitchen, and will indulge your sweet tooth with a look into the chocolate empires of titans Milton Hershey and Harry Burnett Reese, whose tiny inventions evolved America’s love for chocolate forever. The episodes are currently airing as part of the show’s second season, and are now available for streaming at history.com.

The Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden welcomed Charlie Nardozzi this May to shoot a portion of an episode featuring spring gardening tips and topics for “New England Gardening with Charlie Nardozzi” which aired in June on Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) and its sister station, Spirit. The Nathan Hale Homestead has also recently appeared on the small screen, as seen in an episode of “Legacy List” highlighting artist David Hayes on PBS this past January.
**Connecticut Landmarks History**

**Amasa Day House**
Connecticut Landmarks’ members are invited Inside the Amasa Day House on Saturday, July 10th for a first floor tour of the 1816 house, followed by light refreshments. This opportunity will be limited to the first 100 members to sign up; pre-registration required at https://inside_the_amasa_day_house.eventbrite.com. You must be a current member to participate.

**Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden**
The Connecticut Landmarks Collections Team is undertaking a three-phase Wallpaper Restoration Project. Starting this fall is Phase I, a yellow pillar and arch paper dating to the 1950s. As this paper is no longer in print, wallpaper reproduction expert Laura McCoy Designs color matched and reprinted paper from samples that were taken from the house. Read more and help support our fundraising efforts at: ctlandmarks.org/in-the-news/preservation-updates.

**Butler-McCook House & Garden**
Bring a lunch and we’ll provide food for thought in our new Lunch & Learn series! On Wednesday, July 21st, Marci Martin, former Elizabeth Park Rosarian, will share her presentation Lovely Roses: Favorites from the Rosarian’s Garden highlighting the beautiful roses grown in her garden along with her insights and advice about rose culture, plant habits and basic rose care. Register at https://mccook-lunch-and-learn.eventbrite.com.

**Hempsted Houses**
Spend an afternoon aboard the Thames River Water Taxi for a tour highlighting New London history led by the Hempsted staff. White Sails, Black Hands: The African American Experience on CT Water will explore the stories of a fugitive slave, Black Revolutionary Patriots, Black Governors and whalers, and the Amistad, while Stories Based on a Colonial Diary will cover some of the stories around the Thames River from Joshua Hempsted’s nearly 50-year record of daily life. For more information on our partnership with the Thames River Heritage Park, tour info, and to register, visit thamesriverheritagepark.org/boat-tours.
Historic Happenings

Isam-Terry House
Connecticut Landmarks was recently awarded a $9,000 grant from the 1772 Foundation and Preservation Connecticut to restore several original windows and French doors at the historic Isham-Terry House in Hartford. CTL is expected to select a contractor and begin the restoration project at the 1854 Italianate-style mansion within the next several weeks.

Nathan Hale Homestead
Travel back in time for Redcoats, Rebellion, and the Hale Homestead: An 18th-Century Encampment on Saturday, August 21st! Enjoy drilling by the Connecticut 5th and Flaming 54th, and demonstrations by 18th-century craftsmen. Try your hand at colonial games and activities. Members are invited to stop by our VIP tent for refreshments and a special conversation with a general. Looking to experience the Homestead in the 21st-century? The Coventry Farmers’ Market is back to its regular in-field format every weekend from June through October!

Palmer-Warner House
Join CTL staff and community members this summer to help shape the future of the Palmer-Warner House in East Haddam! CTL will be hosting focus groups, gathering feedback, and testing program concepts virtually and in-person. To receive updates, please email palmer.warner@ctlandmarks.org.

Phelps-Hatheway House
Restoration work was completed in May on the roof of the main house at the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden in Suffield. Workers from J.P. Bachand Restoration Contractors carried out repairs to two chimneys, the wood shingle roof, and one of the gutters in order to prevent moisture from entering the 18th-century structure located on Suffield’s historic South Main Street. View the restoration during our Music in the Hatheway Garden concert series this August!

For a complete listing of upcoming events and to register, visit: ctlandmarks.org/events.
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Our series of guided Historic Hartford Walking Tours hosted by the Butler-McCook House & Garden kicked-off with two sold out events. “It was well organized, well executed, informative and educational. I learned so much about the history of Hartford!” said one walking tour participant after learning about Hartford’s historic South End. Catch the end of the series when the cooler weather returns in the fall with Discovering Historic Main Street Hartford.

With COVID restrictions more relaxed, CTL members and visitors are certainly making up for lost time. Tours of the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden sold out for much of the month of May – with high demand to visit while Caroline’s lilacs were at their peak. Make your reservation to visit this summer while the lilies, clematis and phlox are in bloom and our orchard begins to bear fruit. Please note that we are still asking visitors to wear masks and social distance within our historic interiors.

Connecticut Landmarks is thrilled to welcome young historians to our sites for summer camps. Children will travel back to the 18th century to explore the historic stories of the Nathan Hale Homestead and the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden. The Sunset Sounds Concert Series, with expanded attendance capacity, continues at the Butler-McCook House & Garden. There will be Pirate Days at the Hempsted Houses, connecting our story to the maritime legacy of New London. And, the Nathan Hale Homestead is honoring heroes for the month July with the 4th annual Flag Field for Heroes. Purchase an American flag in honor of a military service member, veteran or hero by contacting the Homestead.

We are so excited about our 2021 season and seeing you again for in-person programming! Look for more details in this newsletter, and visit ctlandmarks.org/events for a complete list of upcoming events and to register.

Of course, any discussion of re-opening needs to recognize the changing landscape of COVID-19 safety. Connecticut Landmarks takes our visitor and staff safety seriously. When the pandemic first started, the organization called together an internal COVID-19 Task Force to discuss and create policies around operations. This working group has continued to meet and update information about future plans. As of May 19, 2021, the State of Connecticut dropped most requirements related to pandemic safety. However, the working group recommended – and the organization implemented – that health and safety precautions continue for the time being due to our historic interiors’ small sizes and low airflow. See the sidebar for more details and as always, visit the website for the most up-to-date information as situations change.

COVID Safety

• Masks continue to be required for all interior tours, due to the smaller spaces and limited airflow that is common in historic buildings.
• Tour appointments continue to be recommended to ensure social distancing.
• Capacity limits remain in effect for certain programs.
• Enhanced site cleaning protocols will continue.
• For more information, visit ctlandmarks.org.
Welcome to the CTL Family!

New Staff

D. Shawn Beckwith comes to Connecticut Landmarks as our new Property Manager. He brings with him a proven record of evaluating and establishing appropriate preservation practices to manage the rehabilitation, restoration, and continued preservation of our National Register properties using the Secretary of the Interior’s rigorous Standards for Preservation. He was previously employed in preservation with Historic New England and Culture & Heritage Museums in South Carolina and as a construction project manager in Florida, Georgia and Ohio. Shawn has earned multiple awards for his work including the comprehensive restoration of the 1908 Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Burton J. Westcott House in Springfield, Ohio and the structural stabilization of the circa 1664 Richard Jackson House in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Shawn holds a B.S. in Agriculture from The Ohio State University.

New Board Member

Michael Arseneault comes to the Board with many years of legal experience, most recently at Merck & Co., Inc. where he has served as an Executive Director and Managing Counsel since 2018. Prior to that, Michael served for nearly a decade as Vice President, Counsel at CBS Corporation and more than a decade at New York City law firms including Proskauer Rose, Milbank Tweed and Simpson Thacher. He began his career as a legislative staff assistant in the Capitol Hill office of former U.S. Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut and earned degrees from Georgetown, Fordham Law School and Columbia Business School. Michael divides his time between New York City and the Old Parsonage, a Federal period house bordering the Higginum Landing National Register Historic District in Haddam. A Norwich native and Norwich Free Academy alum, Michael’s passion is Connecticut history and he spends his spare time exploring the state, learning the diverse stories of its historical places and structures and faithfully restoring his own piece of Connecticut history in Haddam.

Thank You to Our New Members!


THANK YOU

We are grateful for the support of our members, donors, community partners, funders, and sponsors. Without you, preserving, presenting, and promoting the very best of Connecticut history would not be possible.

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CT Natural Gas (CNG)
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Suffield Garden Club
Technolutions, Inc.
Town of Coventry
Travelers
West Hartford Garden Club
Amiel P. Zak Public Service Fund at HFPG
Connecticut Landmarks uses historic properties to inspire an understanding of our complex past.

2021 Season Highlights

Sunset Sounds
Butler-McCook House & Garden
Thur., June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, & Sept. 9, 6 – 8 pm

Inside the Amasa Day House:
A Connecticut Landmarks Members Event
Amasa Day House
Sat., July 10, 10 am – 1 pm

Redcoats, Rebellion, and the Hale Homestead:
An 18th-Century Encampment
Nathan Hale Homestead
Sat., Aug. 21, 11 am – 3 pm
Visit us at the CTL Members Tent

For more information, visit www.ctlandmarks.org/events.