

# MANSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 51, No. 2

September 2015

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It has been a nice New England summer this year, perhaps as a reward for a long, snowy winter. The Mansfield Historical Society museum opening was on June 7, 2015 and our new exhibits were premiered. The first exhibit highlights the diaries of Martin and Almira (Hibbard) Parker and the second one is on the construction of the Mansfield Hollow Dam. The exhibits will be on view through Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Two of the sons of Rex Altomare, the first resident dam tender, were present at the opening. They shared stories of growing up in a house on the Mansfield Hollow Dam property, including shoveling the snow off the stairs that went from the parking lot to the top of the dam. Three current members of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers staff also attended the opening of the exhibit.

Outside on the lawn, Nancy Rucker helped children pot sunflower seeds while master gardener Debra Hultgren provided information on how to press and preserve botanical specimens.

Perennials donated by the Garden Gate Club were given away in exchange for a contribution to the Society. Free vegetable seedlings were also available. These had been raised by the F.F.A. students at E. O. Smith High School for the GROW Windham Plant-a-Row program. Those who took the vegetable seedlings signed a pledge to donate the produce to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. We were happy to distribute the seedlings grown for this worthy cause. *(Continued on next page)*



*Bill and Rex Altomare, Jr. with Army Corps rangers at the opening of the Mansfield Hollow Dam exhibit. Their father, Rex Altomare, Sr. was one of the lead engineers for the Mansfield Hollow flood control project and served as the first resident dam tender from 1952 to 1973.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### **Friday, September 25, 6:00 p.m.: ANNUAL MEETING - DINNER AND MUSIC PROGRAM**

Rick Spencer, musician and historian, will present a program entitled, "To End All Wars: Songs of the First World War." This event will be held at the First Church in Christ (Congregational) in Mansfield Center.

### **Saturday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.: SILK PROGRAM & LACE MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS**

At 11:00 Ann Galonska, Museum Director of the Mansfield Historical Society, will present a program on Mansfield's early silk industry to members of the New England Lace Group. Following a break, members of the New England Lace Group will demonstrate bobbin lace making techniques from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The program and demonstrations will be held in the Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library (54 Warrenville Road in Mansfield Center). Both are free and open to the public.

### **(President's Corner continued)**

Thanks go to Ann Galonska and our many volunteers for their efforts in our 2015 museum year. A complete listing of volunteer acknowledgements may be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Marty Yutzey has resigned as Membership Chair and I thank her for her years of service in that position. Pam Roberts has agreed to take over as Membership Chair and is already working to implement a membership follow-up and recruitment plan. Rudy Favretti has also volunteered to chair our Research and Publications Committee, filling the position long held by the late Carl Schaefer. Rudy has written several publications for the Mansfield Historical Society and is currently completing a book for Joshua's Trust.

The Mansfield Historical Society leases the former Town Office Building and the Old Town Hall from the Town of Mansfield. Attorney Stephen Bacon has been assisting us in the process of negotiating new leases. Ann Galonska, Attorney Bacon and I have met twice with Mansfield Town Manager Matthew Hart and Allen Corson, Director of the Facilities Management Department, over the last two months. There are a number of outstanding maintenance and repair issues for both buildings that have been included in the discussions. Museum Director Ann Galonska has been researching possible grants to assist the Town in covering some of the repairs.

Final cost estimates cannot be determined at this time as a comprehensive review of both buildings will be required. Although the leases for both buildings have now lapsed, there is a provision to continue the terms of the existing lease upon approval of the lessor. Attorney Bacon recommended at our last meeting with Town Manager Matthew Hart that a new lease should not be finalized until the cost estimates are complete. The consensus from that meeting was that this was a reasonable way to proceed. We will continue to work with the Town of Mansfield on these issues.

At our Executive Council meeting in July, we discussed ways to increase public outreach through social media, to schedule engaging programs to attract more families, to grow and maintain membership in MHS and fundraising to support the mission of the Mansfield Historical Society.

Please join us on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at our annual meeting and dinner at the First Congregational Church in Mansfield Center. Rick Spencer will present the musical program: "To End All Wars – Songs of the First World War". Reservation forms are included with this newsletter.

It is the time of year once again for membership renewals. We will begin a new renewal process this year and will be mailing out renewal notices with return envelopes to make it more convenient to renew. Our existing members are our best resource for new members. If you know an individual or family that may be interested in joining the Society, email us with their contact information and we will send them a membership form.

Should you have any suggestions for the Historical Society and its museum, please contact Ann Galonska or me via mail, phone (860-429-6575) or e-mail ([mansfield.historical@snet.net](mailto:mansfield.historical@snet.net)).

*Keith Wilson, President*

### **ANNUAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 25**

Our annual dinner meeting will be held on Friday, September 25, at the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Mansfield Center (intersection of Rtes. 89 and 195).



Following dinner and a brief business meeting, popular musician Rick Spencer will entertain us with his new program, "To End All Wars: Songs of the First World War."

The musical program commemorates the centennial of World War I. On June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary and his wife Sophie were assassinated. Scholars agree that this was the catalyst of the terrible conflict that claimed over 10 million lives and came to be called "The War to End All Wars." The popular and folk songs of the First World War were patriotic and inspiring. Some were filled with pathos, describing tragedy, loss, fear and hope. A surprising number were humorous. Music tied the men on the battlefield to their families at home. It united people in their beliefs, and inspired those who left home and family to fight. To listen to the songs of the First World War is to hear the cultural history of the period brought vividly to life. "To End All Wars: Music of World War One" is a presentation of period songs, some well-known, others more obscure, along with a discussion of the issues, events and personalities of the War.

Rick Spencer is well known for his work as a historian, singer, songwriter and performer of music in the American folk tradition. For over 25 years he has traveled and performed at venues which include

concert stages, folk festivals, museums, historical societies, schools, and pubs.

Rick was a staff musician and interpreter for 20 years at Mystic Seaport, the Museum of America and the Sea. There he joined with four others to form the renowned sea music group, "Forebitter." He has also served as the Site Administrator of the Hempsted Houses in New London and as the Executive Director of the Dr. Ashbel Woodward Museum in Franklin, Connecticut.

We hope you will join us on September 25 for this educational and entertaining program.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE DINNER.** Please send in the enclosed reservation form or call the museum (860-429-6575) by **September 19** to reserve your spot.

**Those who wish to attend the program only should arrive by 7:30 p.m. There will be an admission fee of \$3.00 at the door for those who are not attending the dinner.**

### **ACCEPTING A CHALLENGE – PRIORITIZING MEMBERSHIP FOLLOW-UP**

The Executive Council discussed important membership follow-up needs at its summer meeting. Seeing the need, Pam Roberts Council Member-At-Large stepped up to assume Acting Membership Chair, filling an existing vacancy. With assistance from Museum Director Ann Galonska and Executive Council members Anne Bennett and Keith Wilson with other volunteers, a permitted bulk mailing to over 200 households went out on August 4, 2015.

- We reminded and invited over-due 2015 membership renewals
- We invited those removed from active status in 2014 to re-instate by paying 2015 dues.

Thirty eight of over 200 households responded with dues or donations totaling over \$1400 as of August 18, 2015 boosting our 2015 paid active membership profile so our planning for 2016 can begin with more accurate active member figures.

Members will receive first notices for dues covering the 2016 year (January–December 2016) by the end of October 2015. Second notices will be scheduled for March 2016 and a one-year grace period with continuing benefits before removal will be implemented.

Help put membership follow-up a priority. Contact Pam and share in the challenge (860-428-2406 or [drpampSCC@charter.net](mailto:drpampSCC@charter.net)). A strong, supportive membership is vital to MHS.

### **THERE'S STILL TIME! THE MUSEUM IS OPEN THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27**

If you have not already done so, we urge you to visit the museum before it closes for the season on Sunday, September 27. Don't miss our new exhibits!

In the main building there is a very interesting exhibit about the Parker family based on a collection of diaries written by Martin and Almira (Hibbard) Parker. Spanning from 1862 to 1907, the diaries provide a fascinating window into the daily life of this rural Connecticut family.

A side exhibit is devoted to the Phelps family. The Parker's oldest daughter, Orra, married Charles S. Phelps, then a professor at the Storrs Agricultural School. Orra Parker Phelps became a noted botanist and writer. She is best known locally as the author of *When I was a Girl in the Martin Box*, a book about her early years in Coventry.

Orra Almira Phelps, the oldest daughter of Charles and Orra Parker Phelps, is another member of this family who stands out. She became a doctor, naturalist and an influential member of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Dr. Phelps authored the first trail guide of the High Peaks Region in 1934.

We are very grateful to Mary Arakelian, Nancy Avery and David Hayden, descendants of the Parker and Phelps families, who provided most of the family photographs and memorabilia for the exhibit.

In the Old Town Hall building, there is new display about the history of the Mansfield Hollow Dam, built in 1949-1952. This informative exhibit describes the reasons for the flood control project, the controversy surrounding it, and the properties and homes that were lost as a result. There are many interesting photographs of the construction process provided by the Army Corps of Engineers. The exhibit also covers the dam's first test during the floods following Hurricane Diane in August of 1955. It was the first time that the newly built dam filled with water. The dam proved its worth, providing substantial protection to the local area and reducing flooding in communities downriver. This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that crucial test of the dam's integrity.

We especially want to thank Bill Altomare who collaborated with us on the Mansfield Hollow Dam exhibit. He loaned many items from the estate of his father, Rex Altomare, Sr., who had worked on the dam construction project and also served as the resident dam tender for 21 years. Bill also hand-colored several images in the exhibit to add more visual interest.

Special thanks also to David Landry who put together the interesting display about the new hydro

power station installed a short distance below the dam spillway. It provides power to the former Kirby Mill, now owned by entrepreneurs Sam and Michelle Shrifrin. The Shifrin's engineering company, Mecasys, designed and built the hydro power project.

**The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. through the end of September. We hope to see you there!**

**WANTED:  
MUSEUM HOST/HOSTESS VOLUNTEERS**

Signup online at <http://www.mansfieldct-history.org>, click on the Host/Hostesses tab at top, far right. Or contact Pam Roberts ([drpamptSCC@charter.net](mailto:drpamptSCC@charter.net); 860-428-2406). Will train, easy and fun task!

**MORE MUSEUM NEWS**

There have been some improvements to the outside of our main museum building. The crumbling stone steps have been rebuilt, making the entrance much safer. Public Works staff have also removed the stumps of the overgrown bushes cut down last year. They filled in the area with fresh topsoil and then applied wood chips around the perimeter of the building and in the garden area. We also added some new hosta plants by the front entrance. The front of the building is now more attractive and the war memorial plaques are clearly visible.

We are pleased to welcome Daniel Allie as a new volunteer. He is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut and, while a student, worked in the archives at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. He is helping us organize some uncatalogued collections of family papers.

Sadly, we've had to bid farewell to our student intern, Melissa Traub, and our long-time student volunteer, Quin Harper.

Melissa interned during the spring semester and played an integral role in the mounting of the Parker/Phelps family exhibit. She transcribed some of Martin Parker's diaries, did a substantial amount of research, wrote sections of exhibit text and helped design and install the exhibit.

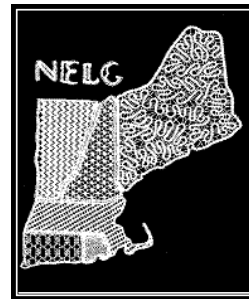
After completing her internship at our museum, Melissa entered the summer internship program at the Connecticut Historical Society. She plans to pursue a career in museum work after completing her final semester at the University of Connecticut. The experience she gained through interning at our museum and at CHS should help her achieve that goal.

Quin Harper, our faithful student volunteer, graduated from E. O. Smith High School last spring and will be entering Connecticut College this fall. Over the past two years, Quin has helped us catalog artifacts, reorganize our office and storage areas, prepare exhibit materials and has assisted in countless other ways.

With much appreciation, we thank Melissa and Quin for all their help and wish them much success in their future education and careers.

**MHS TO HOST NEW ENGLAND LACE  
GROUP ON OCTOBER 17**

The New England Lace Group has asked us to host their fall meeting on Saturday, October 17. The group promotes the making, collecting and studying of lace throughout the New England area.



The NELG meeting will be held at the Buchanan Center at the Mansfield Public Library. At 11:00 a.m., Museum Director Ann Galonska will give a PowerPoint presentation to the group about the early home silk industry in Mansfield.

During the afternoon, NELG members will demonstrate the art of bobbin lace making from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Bobbin lace is created by braiding and twisting lengths of thread, which are wound on bobbins to manage them. This will be a rare opportunity to learn about this beautiful craft that originated in 16<sup>th</sup> century Italy.

Both the silk program and lace making demonstrations are open to the public. Please stop by!

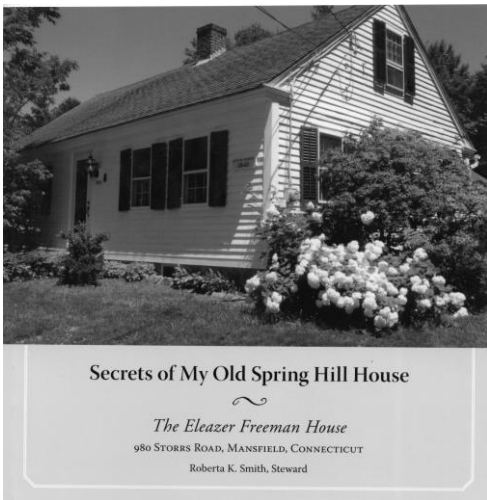
**A MAJOR GIFT TO OUR ARCHIVES**

We have received an extensive collection of materials relating to the Parker, Hibbard and Phelps families from Mary Arakelian, a niece of Orra Almira Phelps. She is the author of *Doc, Orra A. Phelps, M.D.: Adirondack Naturalist and Mountaineer*.

The collection includes many photographs of family members spanning from the 1860s into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Other highlights include genealogy fans of the families, a baby quilt made by Almira Parker for her daughter, Orra (b. 1867), 70 letters written by Orra Parker when she was a student at Mount Holyoke Women's Seminary in 1884-1888, several diaries kept by Charles S. Phelps and Orra Parker Phelps, a scrapbook of articles written by Orra Parker Phelps, and her unpublished collection of essays

entitled “House Mother’s Holidays.” There is also much material relating to Orra Almira Phelps, M.D., including correspondence and articles written by her.

We look forward to fully exploring the collection and expect to find many exciting discoveries. Together with the diaries of Martin and Almira Parker, previously given by Nancy Avery, we now have a very fine archive of Parker, Hibbard and Phelps family materials. We are very grateful to Mary Arakelian for this generous gift.



### **ANNOUNCING A NEW BOOK BY ROBERTA K. SMITH**

*Roberta Smith has just written and published a new book about her beloved home on Spring Hill. She has generously directed the proceeds from sales to the Mansfield Historical Society. Roberta is a charter member of the Society, a former librarian at the University of Connecticut and our current Town Historian. The book may be purchased at the museum or ordered online at [www.mansfieldct-history.org](http://www.mansfieldct-history.org). The cost is \$12.*

Roberta’s charming, informal history of the Eleazer Freeman house at 980 Storrs Road focuses on the work of her mother and father and Roberta in restoring and maintaining the house. It began with a few pages of notes for future owners. As Roberta’s memories returned, pages and pages accumulated. I had the pleasure of working with her to turn her notes into this longer text that is accompanied by eighteen black and white or color photographs, site and floor plans, and, of course, a title search. Its production was supported in various ways by a number of family and friends just as her continuing efforts to care for the house were supported by a number of local carpenters, contractors, and suppliers. The work of Maura Zimmer, who designed and oversaw the

publication of her story, has created a book with visual appeal that all will enjoy. It complements Roberta’s more detailed 1983 *Listen to the Echoes: the Early History of Spring Hill, Mansfield, Connecticut*.

*Norman D. Stevens*

### **IN MEMORIAM: CARL W. SCHAEFER II**

With sorrow we note the passing of Carl W. Schaefer on April 29, 2015.

Carl taught at the University of Connecticut in the Department of Entomology from 1966 until his retirement in 2009, attaining the title of full professor in 1976. He also served on the Mansfield Town Council for ten years and was involved in many important decisions.

Carl was also a dedicated member of the Historical Society. He was appointed chair of the Mansfield History Workshop in 1989 and since 1990 he served on our board as chair of the Research and Publications Committee. From 2002-2003, he oversaw the updating and publication of the second edition of the *Chronology of Mansfield, Connecticut*.

We will certainly miss Carl and extend our condolences to his family and friends. We are grateful for his service to our Society and will miss his quick wit that always enlivened our meetings.

### **MANSFIELD AND THE C.A.C. DURING THE GREAT WAR**

*In recognition of the centennial of World War I, we are providing this condensed version of text from our 2007 exhibit on the subject.*

For the two and a half years prior to America’s entry into the war, the newspapers were filled daily with news of the war in Europe and the suffering of civilians caught in its wake. On May 7, 1915 a German U-boat sank the steamship *Lusitania*, resulting in the loss of 1,200 civilians, including more than 100 U.S. citizens. Outrage over this tragic event further “primed the pump” for war. As U-boat attacks on American merchant vessels increased, the talk of war grew louder. Fear also grew that an Allied defeat would prove catastrophic to America’s financial interests abroad and to its economy at home.

When war was finally declared in April of 1917, the American people were ready to respond as a wave of patriotism spread the nation. They heeded the idealistic words of President Wilson – that the war would “make the world safe for democracy” and, with the establishment of a League of Nations, would be the “war to end all wars.”

Eighty-one men from Mansfield answered the call to arms, joining the 67,000 from Connecticut who served during the Great War.

As a land-grant institution, the Connecticut Agricultural College was charged with providing a practical education that focused on agriculture, the mechanical arts and military science. Thus by 1917 C.A.C. had a considerable body of students and graduates who were trained in the basics of military science and were ready to serve. Approximately 600 men from Storrs enlisted. Nearly half were students, faculty and alumni and the remainder were members of the Students' Army Training Corps who arrived on campus in the fall of 1918.

Though numerous C.A.C. students entered military service, many more contributed to the war effort by supervising and assisting agricultural endeavors on the home front. Their specialized training was much needed as Connecticut's farmers faced a severe labor shortage. During 1917 and 1918, the college schedule was adjusted – closing early in the spring and opening late in the fall – so that students could assist farmers with spring planting and continue working until harvest time. C.A.C. students worked in the fields as both supervisors and laborers. They contributed much to the state's efforts to increase food production in the face of a growing food crisis.

Twenty-five girls attended the college during the year 1917-1918, while more than forty girls registered during the fall of 1918. With the male students either in military service or working on farms, the co-eds took over activities ordinarily performed by the boys and assumed some campus leadership positions as well. The women students also participated in war work activities, such as bond drives and projects for the Red Cross. Like their male counterparts, some helped alleviate the labor shortage on farms, becoming "farmerettes" or joining the Women's Land Army. Others supervised war gardens, worked in canning kitchens or demonstrated canning methods.

By 1917 it was clear that control over food had to be established in order to provide humanitarian aid to the peoples affected by the war overseas as well as to provide for those at home.

On August 10, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Food Control Bill giving the government control over America's food supply and its distribution. The same day, the President issued an executive order creating the U.S. Food Administration and appointed Herbert Hoover as Administrator. An unprecedented education and propaganda campaign was launched to convince the American people to change their habits and diets.

America's food program looked primarily to the patriotic cooperation of its citizens to ensure its success and, amazingly, it achieved its goals without resorting to rationing.

In April of 1917, the National War Garden Commission was established to encourage the American people to help solve the international food crisis by planting war gardens to supply their own needs. By growing food for home consumption and canning their surplus, Americans were told that they were making a vital contribution to the war effort.

In Connecticut, Governor Holcomb appointed a State Committee of Food Supply under the State Council of Defense. The Connecticut Agricultural College worked closely with the Committee of Food Supply. Five members of the College's staff held offices under this committee in Hartford. The Extension Service greatly expanded during this period and offered numerous short courses during the summer to train individuals from across the state in various food producing and conserving activities. Some 500 women attended its canning school in the summer of 1917. The women were taught the latest food preservation techniques and also learned how to organize their own communities to carry on the work. Extension staff also provided expert advice to the Farm Bureaus, County Agents, and others working on the food front. Through its Extension work, the college made a major contribution to the war effort in Connecticut.

As with efforts to increase the production and conservation of food, raising funds for the war was also based upon voluntary participation. Through publicity campaigns and patriotic appeals, the Government convinced the American public to loan the funds needed to finance the war. The war cost the United States over \$30 billion and fully two-thirds of this enormous sum was raised through the five Liberty Loans and the War Saving Stamp program.

Towns were encouraged to fill sale quotas for the Liberty Loan bonds, and many towns turned the sale into a sport, competing to raise the most. A Liberty Bond Committee was formed in Mansfield and bonds were sold by door-to-door canvassers and at special events. On April 13, 1918, a war rally was held in Mansfield Center specifically for the purpose of promoting the Third Liberty Loan bond drive. At this event alone, the residents of Mansfield Center and Mansfield Hollow subscribed nearly \$1,500 to the Liberty Loan. In total, the Town of Mansfield raised \$34,150 in subscriptions to the Third Liberty Loan, well over its quota of \$11,000.

The Red Cross was one of the major relief organizations during the First World War. Supporting the Red Cross monetarily or through

volunteer work was one way that those on the home front could make a significant contribution to the war effort. The Storrs chapter of the Red Cross was established April 20, 1917, and was the first chapter in Tolland County. Ninety-one members enrolled at the first meeting. Volunteers soon organized in other areas in town and the local churches joined in the Red Cross relief efforts. Numerous teas, luncheons, suppers, concerts and pageants were organized in town to benefit the Red Cross. In addition to fundraising, the Mansfield women also prepared surgical dressings and sewed and knitted necessities to be sent overseas.

With patriotic zeal, Mansfield citizens and organizations found many ways to support the war effort at home. They answered the constant appeals for funds by the Y.M.C.A, the Salvation Army, and other relief organizations. The Women's Club of Storrs collected clothing for the Belgian relief effort and supported a French war orphan for six years. The Mansfield Library Association organized a Fourth of July celebration in 1918 that benefited the Red Cross. The Town and the College libraries also collected books as part of a nation-wide effort to provide recreational reading for the troops stationed at home and abroad. The constant presence of war propaganda in the press inspired an unprecedented wave of generosity and volunteerism across the nation.

In July of 1918, the Connecticut Agricultural College entered into a contract with the War Department. It became one of six hundred U.S. colleges to give three months training to men of the Students' Army Training Corps. Of the 411 men who enrolled in the program, 278 were inducted on

October 21, just three weeks before the Armistice was signed. The war ended before their training was completed.

As soldiers began to return home from the War, some brought with them a deadly virus known as the Spanish flu. In the United States, an estimated twenty-five million fell ill, and six hundred and seventy-five thousand died.

The influenza epidemic first touched Mansfield around the first of October, 1918. Between October of 1918 and April of 1919, four hundred and forty-four cases were reported, and many cases of the flu went unreported. Of these cases, 288 occurred during October. The newly formed Mansfield State Training School and Hospital was hit the hardest. Out of the approximate 300 patients, there were 200 cases of the flu, and about 30 patients died. The treatment of all these cases fell on Dr. Lamoure, the only physician, and one nurse. Surprisingly, the Connecticut Agricultural College only reported a few mild cases of the flu.

With the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, the war was finally over, but at a tremendous cost, both monetarily and in human lives. Almost nine million soldiers had been killed, along with eight million civilians, and thousands more were unaccounted for. Some 35 million had become battle casualties, with seven million left permanently disabled. Among those killed were two men from Mansfield and seven students from the Connecticut Agricultural College.

There was peace at last, but it was short-lived. In less than two decades, the Great War that was supposed "to end all wars" would instead be known as the *First World War*.

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## **RESERVATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER Friday, September 25, 2015**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for dinner. Enclosed is a check made out to "Mansfield Historical Society" in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ at \$17.00 per person.

**Menu:** Vegetable Lasagna with salad and garlic bread. The meal also includes appetizers and dessert.

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATION DEADLINE is September 19, 2015**

**Please send your reservation form to: Mansfield Historical Society, PO Box 145,  
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268.**

**Mansfield Historical Society**  
**P. O. Box 145**  
**Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268-0145**

**Web site: [www.mansfieldct-history.org](http://www.mansfieldct-history.org)**  
**E-mail: [mansfield.historical@snet.net](mailto:mansfield.historical@snet.net)**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS: Sept. 25 – Annual Meeting Oct. 17 – Silk Program & Lace Making Demonstrations**

**We especially want to recognize the following people who helped make this year's museum season a success:**

- Melissa Traub, David Landry, Stephen Feathers and Quin Harper who assisted with exhibit prep.
- Keith Wilson, Pam and Dick Roberts, Marietta Johnson, Lisa Ferriere, Anne Greineder and David Landry who helped prepare the museum for its opening.
- Pam Roberts who coordinated the opening day activities.
- Keith Wilson, Anne Bennett, Richard Schimmelfeng, Nora Stevens, Jamie Lang-Rodean and Keith and Marietta Johnson who assisted at the opening day event.
- Nancy Rucker and Debra Hultgren of the Garden Gate Club who organized the garden theme activities and display. Thanks also to the Garden Gate Club for their donation of plants to benefit MHS.
- Betsy Terrell of the Agriculture Dept. at E. O. Smith High School who facilitated the donation of vegetable seedlings for the GROW Windham Plant-a-Row project. Also Nina Schaefer, Coordinator of the WAIM Community Garden, who took the left-over seedlings.
- Joan DeBella who has coordinated the refreshments for all our programs this year as well as the opening event. Many thanks also to all who provided the goodies.
- Pam Roberts who recruited and scheduled the museum hosts for the summer and has now taken on the additional role of Membership Chair.
- Our members who volunteered to host at the museum during our open hours. Special thanks to Richard Schimmelfeng who has hosted on numerous weekends.
- Members of the Garden Gate Club who have maintained our gardens throughout the summer.

**We truly appreciate the contributions of everyone who helped. THANK YOU TO ALL ON A JOB WELL DONE!**