

# NEW LONDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

## *A Hempstead Secret*

*Mond 13 fair.* I came home by my farm & got to ye ferry by noon & ... over by 2 & went back to make up between Nattee & Sarah Church. I went to Justice Perkins's to get him to assist & came back at night 9 of ye Clock before I got home. Son Robert is come over to Mr Ledgyards. I turned my young Cattel out of ye plain yt S. P kept. *Wednsd 15 fair.* I was at home foren at Court & in Town &c. I bot 1 Dozn Coat Plate buttons of Edwd Palmes & gave him 2 Dollers & am to pay him £3 11s 6d.

Did you notice anything as you read this passage from The Diary of Joshua Hempstead? This is the text as it appears on page 492 of our 1999 edition, and yes, there is no entry for the 14<sup>th</sup> of June of 1748. Except, there is an entry for that date in the manuscript.

When we published the 1999 edition under the guidance of Patricia Schaefer and Neild Oldham, we reformatted the text to make it easier to follow, and added a new index of names, including the names of slaves and women who had mostly been left out of the earlier index. Pat Schaefer reviewed the manuscript and conducted extensive research into the original to clarify discrepancies and check confusing items in the transcription completed in 1896 by Miss

Fannie Potter, the secretary of the historical society at the time.

However, you may remember the entire manuscript was not available for Pat to review. The folios for the years 1732 to 1750, had been loaned to the historical society for the transcription, but then returned to the owner in the Bolles-Branch line of the Hempstead family. The historical society was able to acquire the missing one third of the document at auction in 2011, and Pat Schaefer has

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## *Holiday Open House and Volunteer Reception ~ Thursday 19 December at 4 PM*

Please join us on the evening of Thursday 19 December for our holiday open house and reception to honor the volunteers who do so much to keep the historical society running smoothly. We'll have holiday sweets and cheeses, tea, coffee, and wine.

A special performance will take place at 5 o'clock with Jennifer Emerson (also known as "Miss Perkins") sharing some mid-nineteenth century holiday spirit with a reading of some of the most memorable parts of Charles Dickens's, "A Christmas Carol." Popular from the day that it was published, Jennifer will share the story as it might have been read in the Perkins home. Certainly we'll all be wishing, "God bless us, every one!" as we head home.

Not just for volunteers — **all are invited.** But because of the performance please call the office to make reservations: 860.443.1209.

## *“Ye Towne’s Antientest Buriall Place” The Bolles Family, Part II*

In the last newsletter we covered a few of the members of the large Bolles clan who have headstones in the Antientest Burial Ground. This time we will cover the rest of the family. John and Sarah (Edgecombe) Bolles, who do not have stones in the burying ground, were the parents or grandparents of most of those who do. John and Sarah were both very active in the religious group known as the Rogerenes, founded by John Rogers, and not recognized as a legitimate sect by Connecticut authorities. Suggestions for more information on the Rogerenes can be found in references at the end of this article.

Isaiah Bolles was the eighth child and sixth son of John and Sarah Bolles, born October 11, 1713. In 1735 he married Lydia Powers, who does not seem to have been his first love. Joshua Hempstead, the diarist, notes on November 18, 1733, “Isaiah Boles & Jemi Rogers published.” Since this Isaiah Bolles appears to have been the only one of that name in New London at the time, it was probably he. However, on August 4, 1734, Hempstead says “Math Cooley of Lyme & Jemima Rogers published.”

Isaiah and Lydia had five children, at least two of whom (both named Bathsheba) died young. Hempstead notes on August 30, 1753, while an epidemic of the bloody flux (dysentery) gripped New London, “3 Children Died last night & to day. one of Patrick Robertson & one of Joshua Bolles’s & one of Isaiah Bolles’s.” Their second child, Margaret, born February 12, 1738, married a Frederick Lee, who died February

1, 1757, “att his wives fathers Isaiah Bolles.” Neither of these, nor Bathsheba, has a stone in the burying ground.

Hempstead did quite a bit of surveying for the Bolles family, including Isaiah. Hempstead also bought livestock from Isaiah, as in April of 1743, when “I made a Map for Ebe Bolles & he pd me 10s. I Sent it and 4. more to Isaiah by Enoch to pay for 2 piggs.” (Enoch was another brother, who does not have a stone in the burying ground.) The following year Hempstead notes on April 4, “I killed ye Last of my 2 piggs that I had of Isaiah Bolles last april yesterday.”

Lydia “departed this Life Sept. 10, A.D. 1774, in the 62d year of her age,” as it used to say on her headstone. The stone is next to Isaiah’s, but broken off at the ground. Isaiah outlived her, dying January 28, 1789, “in the 76<sup>th</sup> year of his age.” His stone is in good condition. The Bolles genealogy says both died in Saybrook.

The tenth child of John and Sarah Bolles, Joshua, has two children with headstones in the burying ground, although neither he nor his wife has one. Joshua was born August 5, 1717, and married Joanna Williams January 30, 1739. The genealogy says they had 15 children, including three sets of twins. One child died in the 1753 dysentery epidemic, as noted above. The genealogy also mentions a Sarah who died in 1754.

Samuel “Bowls” as it is spelled on his headstone, was the first child of Joshua and Joanna. He was born December 7,

1740, and died November 5, 1783, “in ye 45<sup>th</sup> year of his age.” (It seems to be off by a year.) The Bolles genealogy says he “m. and had one child, who d. without issue.” It does not give his wife’s name. The headstone is in good condition.

The other headstone from this branch of the family is for Alpheus, the sixth child of Joshua and Joanna, died July 26, 1776, “in the 24<sup>th</sup> year of his age.” He was born October 4, 1752, and did not marry. His headstone is interesting because of mislabeling. The stone itself is spalled (the front layer of brownstone has fallen off), although the footstone is there and says “Mr. Alpheus Bolles.” In front of the headstone is a metal plaque on a metal stick, driven firmly into the ground,

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### **New London County Historical Society** Incorporated 1870

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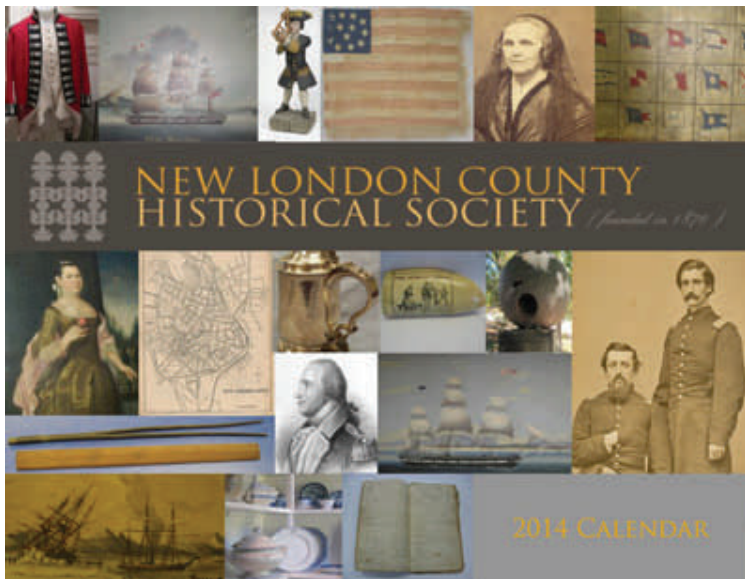
ISSN 1940-2074

## Award Winning!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm delighted to report to you that our 2012 joint exhibition, "The Rockets' Red Glare," created by the collaboration of the New London County Historical Society and our partners the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, the Custom House Museum, the Stonington Historical Society, and Mystic Seaport Museum, has won two more notable awards from the Association for the Study of Connecticut. The exhibit itself garnered the Bruce Fraser Award for the best public history exhibit in Connecticut in 2012. The companion book, with Dr. Glenn Gordinier as the principle author, won the Betty M. Linsley Award for the best book on Connecticut history published by a historical society in 2012. We all know that the exhibit and book were wonderful, and it is equally wonderful to receive recognition for them. If you don't own a copy of the book, we have them for sale at the Shaw Mansion.

For 2014, the New London County Historical Society is producing something entirely new – a calendar that highlights significant places and events in the history of New London County and of the society itself. Under the skillful and creative guidance of Board member Christopher Donohue, we have published a wonderful calendar that you will want to own, and that you will want to share with your friends and families. The calendar highlights well-known and hidden treasures of the Society's collection, along with the stories behind those items and the notable people who have contributed to its history. Learn about the



ladies of the Shaw Mansion. Discover the link between the whaling industry and the Perkins' family's fortunes and misfortunes. Discover why people call Norwich the "Rose of New England." This calendar is so full of wonderful nuggets of information that you won't

throw it away at the end of the year! Sales of the calendar will help support the ongoing operations of the New London County Historical Society and is available to members at \$18 and for others at \$20 — at the Shaw Mansion or on our website (add \$2 for shipping if you want it mailed).

Of course, I hope you will want to support the operations of the historical society with a gift to the Annual Fund; please give generously

Thank you, Nancy Steenburg

## New and Renewed Members

### Educational Partners

Mitchell College	New London
Connecticut College	New London
University of Connecticut, Avery Point	Groton

### Contributing

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## *The Bolles Family, Part II* (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

which says “Richard Coit Holt,” with dates. However, Holt’s headstone is closer to the burying ground entrance. It is also spalled, but has the original words cut into the back. (The metal plaque is actually a good way to locate the Bolles headstones, which are grouped together.)

The 14<sup>th</sup> and last child of John Bolles, with his second wife Elizabeth Wood, also has a headstone in the burying ground. This was Samuel, born May 10, 1744, “when his father was 67 years old.” John and his first wife Sarah had ten children. After she died he married Elizabeth, and they had an additional four. This Samuel was named after an older brother who had died at the age of 35. Samuel was a farmer, who “lived and died in a house built by himself at the age of 19, on a wild and rocky lane leading from New London to Norwich.” (This appears to be Victorian hyperbole. Any road that went from New London to Norwich was more main road than not.) On December 18, 1766, Samuel married Margaret Moore, and they had 13 children. She “died June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1820, aged 74 years,” as her headstone once said. It is spalled, but you can see “Marg” and the footstone has the initials M.B.

In 1827 Samuel married the widow Lois Hamilton, whose maiden name was Wickwire. He was 83. She does not have a headstone in the burying ground. Samuel “died August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1842, in the 99<sup>th</sup> year of his age.” His stone is also spalled, although a little of the lettering can be seen.

Samuel and Margaret’s third child, Martin, “died Aril 11, 1793, in the 23<sup>d</sup> year of his age.” He was born November 21, 1770, and died single. His headstone is spalled, but the footstone is labeled “Martin Bolles.” He is the only one of their children who has a stone in the burying ground.

There is another headstone, in good condition, for a member of another branch of the Bolles family. It is for Ebenezer Bolles, who died June 24, 1776, in his 54<sup>th</sup> year. According to a 1970 genealogy of the Bolles family, he was the fifth child of Joseph, who was the fifth child of Samuel and Mary Dyer Bolles. Joseph was among the first settlers of Rochester, Massachusetts. He married Mary (last name not known) before 1715, and they had nine children. While Ebenezer’s birthdate is not given in the genealogy, the third child was born in 1720 and the eighth in 1729, making a birth year of 1723 reasonable.

Patricia M. Schaefer

### References:

Bolles, John A. *Genealogy of the Bolles Family in America*. Boston: Henry Dutton and Son, 1865. Available online through archive.org. This is the genealogy used for all of the New London family members.

Caulkins, Frances Manwaring, *The History of New London, Connecticut to 1860*. New London, CT: New London County Historical Society, 2007.

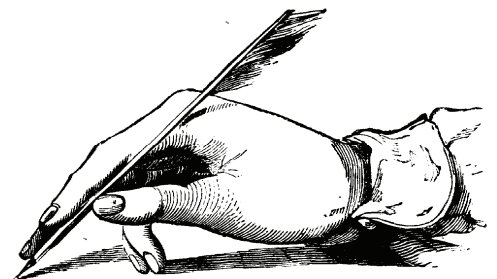
Hempstead, Joshua, *The Diary of Joshua Hempstead, 1711-1758*. New London, CT: New London County Historical Society, 1999.

Prentis, Edward, *Ye Antient Buriall Place of New London, Conn.* New London: Press of the Day Publishing Co., 1899.

Schaefer, Patricia M. *A Useful Friend: A Companion to the Joshua Hempstead Diary 1711-1758*. New London, CT: New London County Historical Society, 2008.

Williams, George E. *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Joseph Bolles of Wells, Maine*. Self-published, 1970. There is a copy at the New London County Historical Society. This was used to identify Ebenezer, d. 1776.

Caulkins and Schaefer both have information on the Rogerenes. For information from a Rogerene point of view, see Bolles, John Rogers and Anna Bolles Williams, *The Rogerenes: Some Hitberto Unpublished Annals Belonging to the Colonial History of Connecticut*. Boston: Stanhope Press, F. H. Gilson Co., 1904. Also available through archive.org.



## A Hempstead Secret

(Continued from page 1)

been back at work, scouring the diary to once again correct discrepancies and look for misplaced or wrongly transcribed words.

On a recent Wednesday (Pat's day to volunteer at the Shaw Mansion), she was looking through the manuscript to clarify a confusing word when she was rather shocked as she saw something that shouldn't have been there, an entry for the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 1748. These are the words she found:

**Tuesd 14.** Fair. In the morn I went to Groton & Met Mr Perkins at foresc. . . & after much debate I agreed to give Sarah Cbh £40 in 10 days & £30 more by the first day of June next if her child shall bee then alive & if dead not to be pd. & the note left in ye hands of Justice Perkins. In the aftern I came home & went out to the Cornfield & fetched home my mare & Rid up into Town&c. Which provides clarification to an entry

later on the page: **Tuesd 21** foggy & Some fair. I was most of the day up in Town to get Somebody to Saw Timber att ye Mill to make a New Cogg wheel. I borrowed of Madm Winthrop £40 for Nattee &c.

With a bit more research Pat found two additional entries that had been left out from September and October 1747:

**Wednesd 16** Yesterday Nathanael was arrested to appear before Justice Perkins at Groton being accused by Sarah Church of Sd Groton of begeting her with child. & forasmuch as he is not able to go now, I've promised he Shall go when well Enough. [October] **Tuesd 6** afternoon I went with James Harris Constable & Nattee to Justice Perkins house att Groton & then & there I gave bond with Nattee for his appear. . . att November Court to answer the Accusation of Sarah Church of Sd Groton who Swears that Nattee begat her with Child more than 6 months Since Recog. £80 New Tenor. I pd ye Constable 6s 7d for his Travell because Nattee was not able to go So far. These entries should appear on pages 479 and 480 of the 1999 edition, but you won't find them there.

Now we know why Joshua needed to borrow £40 from Madam Winthrop for his grandson, Nattee. And, of course, we also now know what needed to be settled between Nattee and Sarah Church.

Joshua Hempstead's son, Nathaniel, died in 1729 at age 28, leaving two sons and a daughter, Joshua, Nathanael and Mary. At the time, Nathaniel and his family were sharing the Hempstead house with his father. Shortly after his death, Nathaniel's wife Mary married Joseph Truman and took baby Mary to live with him, leaving the boys to live with their grandfather. They all lived quite close (Truman Street does intersect with Hempstead Street at the Hempstead house), and so this arrangement was not a great infringement upon family togetherness. The Diary is filled with entries for the two boys as they grew to be young men in New London. Nattee does marry Hannah Booth not long after his liaison with Sarah Church and Nattee and Hannah eventually have six children. The stone house on the Hempstead property was built by this Nathanael Hempstead.

Joshua Hempstead in keeping track of his work and the people he encountered in his life did not shy away from speaking of illegitimate children, nor of fornication. There are multiple entries on these topics, as well as adultery (intercourse with a married woman, not one's spouse) and these accounts all appear to have been correctly transcribed by Miss Potter. One has to wonder why this youthful transgression (Nattee was 21 at the time) by the grandson of the diarist – about which Joshua Hempstead himself was not afraid to record – would have been hidden from the view of the world in 1895.

We don't have an answer, do you?

### Winter Series of "Second Sunday" Lectures Scheduled

Well, NOT Quite "Second Sunday," because in January we will be gathering on the FIRST Sunday, but we hope you will join us at the Shaw Mansion for our Winter Lectures on Sunday afternoons at 4 PM. On **5 January** we will hear from Tricia and Edward about some "Hidden Treasures" of the Shaw Mansion. They will each share three of their favorite things. Tricia is retiring at the end of December and so this event will also feature a reception at which we thank her for her nine years of dedicated service as our librarian.

On **9 February** we will hear from Dr. Jason Mancini, Associate Director of Research at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, a presentation on his extensive research into the work of Indians on whaling ships. And on **9 March** (the day Daylight Savings Time begins again) we will look at maps in the collection of the historical society, including some recent acquisitions.

So remember, First Sunday in January, Second Sundays in February and March, we'll see you here at the Shaw Mansion at 4 PM.

# New and Renewed Members

(Continued from page 3)

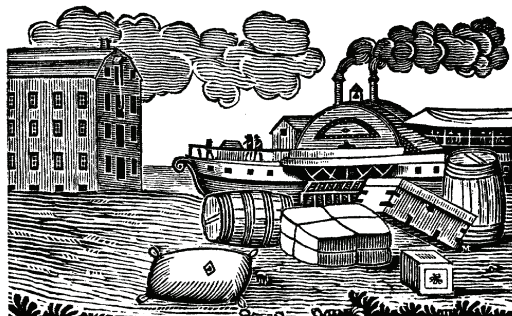
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Susan G. Franklin	Chester
Jorgo Malo	Hartford
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Philip Zetterstrom	Coventry
Robert Erickson	Plainville
Donna Richo	East Haven
Phillip J. Paulsen	Canterbury
Patricia E. Putorti	Westerly, RI
Natheem C. Myles	Bloomfield

Christopher Allesandro	Charlestown, RI
David Swiss	Higginum
Jeffrey Mullaly	Middletown
Myron Leanne	Ledyard
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Matthew Bryant	Pawcatuck
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Rebecca Labrez	Coventry
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Alexandra Kane	N. Windham
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Gary Blackman	Amston
Wilken Y. Rodriguez	Putnam
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Greg Siros	Griswold
Stephanie Rosa	Meriden
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Inshan Baksh	Ronkonkoma, NY
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Leo Willet	Hope Valley, RI
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Leame Secondo	Willington
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Scott Kidd	Plainfield
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Michael Walburn	Lisbon
Ryan Grant	Gardner, MA
Michael Corsini	Guilford
Erika Lorange	Plainfield
Ethan St. Peter	Union



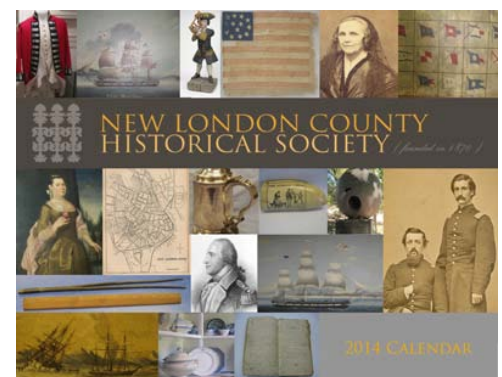
# *Books available from the New London County Historical Society*

<i>The Amistad Incident as Reported in the New London Gazette &amp; General Advertiser.</i> (NLCHS)	\$5
<i>The History of the Amistad Captives.</i> (NLCHS) A reproduction of a pamphlet by JW Barber, 1840.	\$10
<i>Black Roots in Southeastern Connecticut, 1650-1900</i> by Barbara Brown and Dr. James Rose. (NLCHS) This republished book is a milestone in genealogical research of African Americans and Native Americans in New London County.	\$35
<i>The Diary of Joshua Hempstead 1711-1758.</i> (NLCHS) Revised 1999. Personal journal serves as fascinating and invaluable account of Connecticut life in early 18 <sup>th</sup> century.	\$75
<i>For Oil and Buggy Whips: Whaling Captains of New London County, Connecticut,</i> by Barnard Colby. Biographical sketches of local whaling captains document New London's role in this industry.	\$18
<i>Greetings from New London.</i> (NLCHS) Collection of early 20 <sup>th</sup> -century postcards from our archives.	\$10
<i>Life on a Whaler,</i> by Nathaniel W. Taylor. (NLCHS) Story of Taylor's two-year Antarctic voyage as physician aboard New London's <i>Julius Caesar</i> (1851-53).	\$25
<i>New London Goes to War - New London during World War II,</i> by Clark van der Lyke. Drawn from the records and correspondence of the New London City Council. (NLCHS)	\$11
<i>The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut,</i> by James A. Slater. Fully illustrated with photographs, this book provides a description of and maps the burial grounds of eastern Connecticut.	\$40
<i>Common to this Country: Botanical Discoveries of Lewis &amp; Clark,</i> by Susan Munger. Illustrated volume exploring plants discovered by Lewis and Clark on their westward expedition.	\$23
<i>The Day Paper,</i> by Gregory N. Stone. History of New London's award-winning daily newspaper.	\$30
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