

STAFF UPDATE OCTOBER 2018

Kate

September we shifted into our fall programs, including the start in school programs. The highlight of the month was hosting the first Apple Harvest Festival in the Tapping Reeve Meadow.

❖ ***Program numbers for September**

11 programs / 499 program participants

Apple Harvest Festival

~250 visitors

- The first Community festival in the Tapping Reeve Meadow was a great success. Music, games, and demonstrations entertained around 250 visitors. 12 pies were entered into the Apple Pie Contest, judged by the owners of Dottie's Provisions and the Bakehouse.
- Next year, we hope to expand the event by adding more demonstrators.

Requested Programs

As usual, we see an increase in requested programs in the fall.

- **William Grimes Descendents** – in September, William Grimes was inducted into the CT Freedom Trail in New Haven. Regina Mason and Grimes descendents visited Litchfield during their trip to CT. The group came on the William Grimes walking tour we give to the public, and it was an amazing experience to share with them how we are spreading Grimes story. It was a very collaborative tour, and our public tour is now stronger thanks to input from Regina and her family. After the tour, they visited the reading room to view material from the archives.
- **Western Leadership Conference** – participants in the CCF's Western Leadership Conference visited for tours of the Litchfield History Museum and Tapping Reeve House and Law School.
- **Yale Students** - Cathy led a tour of the Tapping Reeve House and Law School for 12 - Yale professor, and an eclectic group of his students and friends.
- **Society of Descendents of the Signers of the Declaration** – A group of 30 descendents of signers visited both the Litchfield History Museum and Tapping Reeve House. Wolcott's descendents also had the treat of visiting the Oliver Wolcott, Sr.'s home during a special arranged tour.
- **CT Historical Society Board** – The CT Historical Society had their September board meeting at the Museum, including a tour of collection storage.
- **Other Requested Programs**
 - Women Redefining Retirement from Milford, CT

School Programs

- **Northwest Connecticut Homeschool History Series** – Our NWCT Homeschool History Series returned this month. This program, which started last fall, regularly draws between 12-18 homeschool students every month.

Public Programs

- **William Grimes Walking Tour**
- **Sunday Lecture: Nick Bellantoni, *The Long Journeys Home***

Linda:

The NHPRC mentioned our Boardman project in a blog post:

<https://www.facebook.com/nhprc/photos/a.10150354723088333/10155938747368333/?type=3&theater>.

Megan:

We have over 900 followers on Instagram-big spike after the Apple Harvest Festival on Saturday. We have 950 followers on Facebook-just on the History Museum page. Please share our events and make sure you “Like” and “Follow” us to see what we are doing on social media!

I am currently working on the Annual Fund Appeal and wrapping up the Fundraiser. There are still tickets available for the Cocktails at the Tallmadge House in February-so there will be push in the next few months to sell the remaining seats.

I am finishing up an organizational brochure to distribute in October at the Antiques Dealer Association Conference. The big publicity pushes this month are Ronald Chester’s Lecture and the Kevin Jennings lecture with the League of Women Voters. There will be more individual event e-blasts sent out to constituents over the next few months because they receive a better response than the multi-event calendar e-blasts. There is also the possibility of advertising with the Bantam Cinema for upcoming events, they have very affordable non-profit rates that I’m exploring.

Alex:

- Currently writing an article for CT Explored on the temperance movement in Connecticut and preparing a lecture on 19th-century mourning for the Fairfield Historical Society
- Provided tour of collection storage and exhibits for board and staff of Connecticut Historical Society
- Presented exhibition design and plan to fellow staff for 2019 show, “Made, Sold, Grown in Litchfield”
- Attended session on “Active Collections” held in Massachusetts, examining how museums can use and collect objects in new ways to adapt to changing audiences