

**Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House**  
Director's Report  
January 23, 2012

**Season 2012 Overview**

**Visitors:** There were a total of 759 visitors in season 2012; which includes 714 museum visitors, 45 outdoor letterbox visitors (total as of 10/6/13) and an approximated number of those who did not sign in.

In comparison, there were 866 in 2011. Lower visitor count from last year is, in part, that the Colchester school (125) did not visit us, (61) less Lebanon Elementary students came, and a cancelled wine tasting program (26) – A loss of 212 to the 2012 season.

**Gift Sales:** Sales income in 2012 was \$27.50. There were few items to sell since it was decided not to purchase new items due to impending renovations. We did, however, give away about 100 free souvenir bookmarks, which were designed in-house.

**Exhibits:** 2012 *Local Collectors Series* exhibits were *Glass and Fire: The Art of Lampworking* (May 19 – July 29, 2012) from the collection of Jaci Sinkewicz and *Proper Silver for the Victorian Home* (August 19 – September 30, 2012) from the collection of Ellen's Secrets. The opening exhibit included lampwork tools and handmade glass beads from across the country. The collector, also a lampwork artist, demonstrated torch techniques used in bead making. The second exhibit displayed over 100 household Victorian silver objects, advertising and manufacturer's catalogues with a focus on items uncommon in today's homes. Working with the director, both exhibits included historical information and selected topical books for browsing; a silver exhibit catalog was also created. The silver exhibition and programming were particularly well attended.

**Events / Programming:**

**Summary**

This season included 19 events, workshops and educational programs, which included two exhibit openings, associated talks and special programs, four hands-on workshops, school groups and the annual tree lighting tour. Several of these days had multiple craft or re-enactor participants. One hands-on workshop and a wine tasting were canceled and not included in the above. Most were free of charge thanks to volunteer program leaders and participants. We also began the Letterboxing Trail at the museum in cooperation with the Revolutionary Connecticut organization and the Lebanon museum consortium.

The museum welcomed back several Reenactors, John Koopman, horseback hussar reenactor, 6<sup>th</sup> CT Regiment with new reenactors, and the Columbia woodcarvers to recurring events. The museum also appreciated a hands-on program presented by the Hale Homestead museum.

The museum revised last season's school-group programs to reflect teacher's assignments. We did not serve the Colchester school this season, which had brought 125 students in Nov. 2011.

**RevCT - Letterboxing:** The Jr. House is a site on a new letter-box trail in partnership with the *Revolutionary CT* (RevCT.com) group. The trail opened in June 2012 and through October brought additional 45 visitors to our site whose personalized stamps and comments were recorded in a hidden letter box on the museum grounds.

We are an active member of the Lebanon Consortium of museums, the *Revolutionary Connecticut* groups.

**Facebook:** A Facebook page for the Jr. House was begun in June 2011, but due to time and access constraints, it is not up-to-date. To maintain the site, a knowledgeable volunteer or a Lebanon student project to maintain the page is recommended by the director.

**Collection management:**

*Inventory status:* Inventory and Collection management is up-to-date (as of October 6, 2012 closing), photographed and catalogued in the current Excel spreadsheet. Year end inventory of 2012 was completed and all collection objects accounted for. On hold is additional information needed for objects including the provenance and condition assessment until a workable database program becomes available.

**Building / Fixtures:** The building assessment was completed and a phased plan of restoration has been identified by the Board.

The folding chairs that were painted last season have been put to use all season and greatly enhance accommodating our visitors. Two new folding tables added this season are far easier to handle, look better than the old worn ones and extensively used in the hands-on workshops and programming at the museum.

**Disaster Plan:** Brashears updated the disaster plan and prioritized the collections list. The plan report is kept on-site and accessible on-line. Ms. McCaw is the point person on implementing the plan as needed and may make changes as required.

The current digitized hand-drawn floor plans are limited in how they are digitally labeled, but are labeled for emergency exits and equipment locations. The printout is manually labeled for collections and prioritized collection objects locations. Digital versions of the architect's floor plans could be integrated to include proper symbols and labeling for emergency exits for museum use as well as equipment locations.

Additional collection storage was recommended in 2011 by Northeast Document Center / disaster plan consultant to be located in the restroom area. Mrs. Macaw has arranged for suitable shelving and a locking cabinet in this location.

**Furnishings / Interpretation:** A tall post bed, now deaccessioned and removed, was temporarily installed in the Southwest Chamber. Due to the proposed restoration project for 2013, and the need to remove the collection to storage, no changes incurred to the current interpretive arrangement. Brashears recommends that during the restoration interim and while closed, furniture and furnishings— especially wood frame chairs used by the public – could be cleaned, repaired and appropriately reupholstered where needed. All original seat covers should remain in the collection. Dependent on when interior restoration is expected, consideration should be given to selecting and installing period appropriate window coverings where there are none. Previous coverings were removed and determined unsalvageable due to fading and decay.

Candice Brashears  
January 24, 2013

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## 2012 Event Calendar

May 19 – Saturday. **Opening Day.**

**Exhibit Opening & Reception:** *Glass and Fire: The Art of Lampworking*

**Meet the artist** and exhibitor, Jaci Sinkewicz who will talk about the history, technique and art of lampworking, a form of glass blowing practiced since antiquity.

**1 pm and 3 pm: Live Lampwork Demonstration**

May 19. Saturday. **Letterboxing Trail open.** Jr. House site.

May 23 – Wednesday. **Lebanon 7<sup>th</sup> graders. *Bike Hike.* 11 – 1:30**

May 27 – Sunday. **Designing a Period Garden** 1 pm fee \$5.

Memorial Day weekend activity ! Design your own flower garden based on a 19<sup>th</sup> century children's garden book. Participants will bring home garden plans, seeds and great ideas ! Program led by Cindy Diaz. Limited seating – please call ahead.

May 30 – Wednesday. **Lebanon 4<sup>th</sup> graders.** 9 – 2

June 3 – Sunday. **Connecticut Trail Day. *Revolutionary Tastings*** around the Lebanon Green. Enjoy an 18<sup>th</sup> century edible treat at the museums. Columbia Carvers will demonstrate wood carving techniques. Jr. House: French bread with apple butter, butter.

June 9 – Saturday. **Connecticut Open House Day:** Visit with Reenactors from the 6<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regiment, a French hussar on horseback and learn about Colonial medicinal herbs. Columbia carvers will demonstrate carving techniques.

June 30 – Saturday. ***Aches, Pains and Cures from the Garden: 18<sup>th</sup> century medicinal Herbs.*** 1 pm.  
Fee \$1.00

Reenactor, Suzanne Schwarz, represents an 18<sup>th</sup> century surgeon's assistant with the 6<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regiment and will talk about the use of home grown herbs and plants used in 18<sup>th</sup> century America. Participants will make their own herbal tea to take home.

July 14 – Saturday. **Lampwork Demonstration:** 1 pm – 2 pm.

Artist Jaci Sinkewicz demonstrates lampworking, a form of glass blowing. Don't miss the exhibit *Glass and Fire: The Art of Lampworking.*

July 21 – Saturday. **Colonial Fun with Fiber**

Join us for Colonial spinning, dying, fiber demonstrations and hands-on fun with our costumed friends from the Hale Homestead.

July 29 – Sunday. **Exhibit Closing: Last Chance !** *Glass and Fire: The Art of Lampworking*

August 4 - Saturday. **Fashionable Frolicks: 18<sup>th</sup> century fashion.** *Noon – 4 pm.*

Renactors, Rebecca & Ashley Starkins, take us on an entertaining journey of 18<sup>th</sup> century fashion 1770-1780. They will display and talk about a wide variety of clothing types and accessories.

**Fashion show: Getting Dressed:** A frolick exploring layers of clothing. *1 pm. Free.*

August 18 – Saturday. **Needlepoint Keepsake Workshop.** *1pm. Free*

All ages and beginners welcome. Design, stitch and create your own needlepoint keepsake. Learn the basic stitches and the techniques to get started on this historic art form.

Materials and supplies provided. If you have them, bring your tapestry needles with you.

Contemporary samples by Artist Judy Vertefeuille will be on display.

August 19 – Sunday. **Exhibit Opening & Reception.** *Noon – 4. Free*

***Proper Silver for the Victorian Home.***

Exhibit features 19<sup>th</sup> century silver designed for fashionable Victorian living, but often no longer used in today's society. Exhibition open Aug. 19 – Sept. 30.

**Meet and talk with collector, Ellen's Secrets.**

**1 pm. American Silver Identification.** Bring your item – limit 2 pieces.

September 15 – Saturday. **Lecture.**

*To be held at Lebanon Historical Society, co-sponsor. 856 Trumbull Hwy, Lebanon.*

***Tavern Signs: Advertising—and Art-- in Early America*** *1 pm. Free.*

From the colonial through the pre-Civil War years thousands of signs alerted travelers to accommodations available at local taverns and inns. Artistic design successfully coupled with commercial necessity in the resulting signs and became part of the everyday landscape. Join us as Richard C. Malley, Head of Research and Collections at the Connecticut Historical Society, leads us on a tour of this topic using the CHS's incomparable collection of tavern and inn signs.

CHS notable publication "Lions & Eagles & Bulls: Early American Tavern & Inn Signs" by Susan P. Schoelwer will be available for purchase.

*September 29 – Saturday. Antiques Show on the Green*

September 29 – Saturday. **Identification Day. *Victorian Silver and Early American Pattern Glass.***  
Ellen's Secrets and Deb Jani will help you identify your favorite Victorian silver and Early American Pattern Glass treasures.

September 30 – Sunday. **Exhibition: *Proper Silver for the Victorian Home* closes.**  
**Last chance !** to talk with Ellen's Secrets, collector, as the exhibit is being packed away.

October 7 – Sunday. The **museum closes** for the season. Thank you one and all for a terrific season.

December 2 – Sunday. **Annual Lebanon Tree Lighting and Museum Tour.** All museums open for the evening under candlelight (electric) and lit fires in the fireplaces.

December 15 – Saturday. ***Sewing Circle*** (club meeting). Historical patterns, sharing ideas and sewing techniques.