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# Founders News

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*Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford* March 2008

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## **Publisher of *Hog River Journal* to Speak**

Elizabeth Normen, the publisher of *Hog River Journal*, will be the speaker at the annual Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. The dinner will be held on Thursday, May 1, at the Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford.

The title of her talk will be "Taking a Ride Down the Hog River." Originally called the Little River (to distinguish it from the Connecticut River), the Hog River got its name from the number of pig farms and tanneries along it. In the 19th century it was given the more genteel name of Park River, and in the 20th century it was buried in concrete conduits.

Normen, who is descended from Mayflower Pilgrims John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley, received her BA from Smith College and her MA in American Studies, with honors, from Trinity College. She has worked in arts management, marketing, and fundraising for area museums, including the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Hill-Stead Museum, where she was Interim Director in 1996-7.

At the event, cocktails will be served starting at 6 p.m., with



**Elizabeth Normen**

dinner at 6:45. Normen's talk will follow.

*Hog River Journal*, a statewide quarterly magazine devoted to Connecticut history, launched in the fall of 2002 and is currently celebrating its fifth anniversary.

In addition to her publishing duties, Normen is executive director of the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation, a small private foundation that funds the arts in the Hartford area. She serves on the board of Connecticut Landmarks (the new name for the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society) and recently helped the West Hartford Public Library raise \$1

million toward a \$9 million expansion and renovation.

In the days of the Founders, the Hog River fostered the new settlement of Hartford and was integral to the industrial development that built a city; and for its troubles, was buried underground. It has a colorful past, but does it have a future? Normen will explain, as we go with her on a ride down the Hog River, a preview of her article that will appear in the summer 2008 issue.

## **Founders of Hartford Identification Cards To Be Made Available**

Thanks largely to Founders Council member Perry Green, the Society will soon have Founders of Hartford identification cards available for all members at no charge. They will make it easier for members to do genealogical research in Connecticut.

Having membership cards, in conjunction with a photo ID, will allow our members special provision under the Connecticut State Statutes to access vital records at city and town halls of the state.

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## **ID Cards to be Available**

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In addition to the cards, which are a new membership benefit, our Society is now being placed on a specified listing of genealogy societies that are allowed to do research using vital records.

For members who do not intend to do any further genealogical research, the membership cards (which carry no expiration date) are a handsome identification as a member of the Founders of Hartford. Cards need to be signed by the member certifying that they will respect the books and records, custodians of the records, and the privacy of information that they may discover.

To receive a card, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215. We suggest that when you receive and sign the card, you have it laminated for long life.



## **Annual Dues Payers Urged to 'Go to Life'**

For several years now, all new members of the Founders of Hartford have been Life Members. The category of members who pay annually has been discontinued.

Those who were annual members when the change was made were allowed to keep paying dues each year if they so chose.

The Founders Council (executive committee) recently been taking a new look at the Society's dues structure, and has decided to issue a new appeal to all annual paying members to consider switching to Life Membership.

Maintaining two sets of membership lists is cumbersome,

and the expense of sending out annual dues notices to yearly members is not inconsiderable.

Therefore, the Council will get in touch with all annual members to discuss a switch to Life Membership. The present cost of Life Membership for a brand-new member is \$300 – but this figure would not apply to old annual members who decide at this point to switch. We realize that many of these annual members have been faithfully paying dues for years (some for decades), and Council members are willing to play "Let's Make a Deal" in an effort to get everyone transferred to the Life category.

Annual members can expect to be contacted some time in the next few months. Each case will be carefully considered on an individual basis.



## **Founders Directory Is Due Out Soon**

A brand-new Founders of Hartford Register and Membership directory has been in the works for about a year, and is due to be published soon.

The last time a Register was printed was in 1996; this new one will list all Founders who have been approved for each member. Phone numbers and e-mails addresses will be included. And the directory will be much more complete, as we have done a thorough review of information from the mailing list and the original applications.



## **New Members Welcomed to Founders of Hartford**

We are pleased to say that the following people have been accepted as members of the

Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford in the past year: David W. Chester of Sherborn, Mass., descended from *Dorothy Chester*; Ronald K. Church of Falmouth, Mass., from *Richard Church*; Alice M. Diskenson of East Lyme, from *William Wadsworth*; Douglas H. Howard of West Hartford, from *John Pratt*; Elizabeth T. W. Tapera of Bryn Mawr, Penn., from *James Wakely*; Elizabeth A. Baker of Sugar Grove, Ohio, from *George Hubbard*; James P. DeSalvo of Merrifield, Va., from *Thomas Lord*; Arthur E. Webster of Cromwell, from *John Webster*; and Robert W. Pease of Bloomfield, from *Thomas Hooker*. Congratulations to our newest members!



## **Members of the Founders Council**

Current members of the Council (Executive Committee) of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford are: Governor, Dr. Robert Hall of West Hartford; Deputy Governor, Carol Lee Joslin of West Hartford; Corresponding Secretary, Jean Greene of Glastonbury; Recording Secretary, Susan Motycka of Glastonbury; Treasurer, Ethel Davis of West Hartford; Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs of Middletown; Chaplain, Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon of Hartford; and Council members Barbara Abraham of Glastonbury; Wilson Faude of West Hartford; Virginia Grant of Bloomfield; Perry Green of New Hartford; Terry Harlow of Glastonbury; Henry McNulty of Cheshire; Peter North of Woodbury; Meredith Richardson of West Hartford; Stephen Shaw of East Haddam; Robert Storm of West Hartford; and Barbara Ulrich of West Hartford.