



# *Stony Brook* **CURRENTS**

Vol. VIII, No. 3

*A Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society*

September 2013

The mission of the Suffield Historical Society is to collect, preserve and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.

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## **JUDAH AND JOSEPH TRUMBLE, ORIGINAL SUFFIELD PROPRIETORS**

*by Ed Chase*

On June 24, 1674, the Committee for Suffield granted brothers Judah and Joseph Trumble acreage on the west side of Feather Street (now East Street) in the area presently encompassed by Alexander Lane. Both young men were born and raised in Rowley, Massachusetts, but Judah had settled in Brookfield before coming to Suffield.

Judah and Mary Pritchard<sup>1</sup> Trumble arrived in Suffield in 1676. The young couple had already endured many hardships. Judah was in his mid-twenties and widowed, when he arrived in Suffield with a second wife and two small sons. Mary's brother and her father had both been killed the previous summer in King Philip's War. Their new start was here in a community that had been totally destroyed during Indian raids.

Judah and Mary's family grew to include seven sons and one daughter. Their offspring married into many Suffield families and the bloodline was woven into much local history. A voter in Suffield's first Town Meeting, Judah soon became active in Town affairs as a surveyor and land measurer.

Joseph<sup>2</sup>, the younger brother, settled his land grant in 1675. But, like all Suffield residents he had been forced to abandon his property during King Phillip's War. He returned to Suffield in 1676 with his wife, two daughters and one son to rebuild his burned-out property. He was a free-man and along with his brother one of the 34 qualified voters at Suffield's first Town Meeting. Joseph and Hannah Smith Trumble farmed the land south of his brother's grant. Hannah's brother lived just south of them along Feather Street.

Three more sons were added to Joseph's family in the ensuing years, and his fourth child – also Joseph – is of particular interest to our story. Joseph Jr.<sup>3</sup> left Suffield soon after his father died, and he married Hannah Higley of Windsor in 1704. At that time, he was living in Simsbury and the spelling of his name had become Trumbull.

Failing in business and farming, Joseph Jr. moved his family to Lebanon, Connecticut, in 1705. There he succeeded magnificently as a merchant. He became the father of two sons, Joseph III<sup>4</sup> and Jonathan.<sup>5</sup> As a young man, Joseph III joined his father in business, while son Jonathan left for Harvard to study for the ministry.

Tragedy struck in 1732, when Joseph III was lost at sea while bound for Barbados. Jonathan then abandoned the ministry to work for his father. Here Jonathan gained notoriety for his business success, became involved in politics, and was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly. During the French and Indian Wars, he gained military experience as a colonel. His competence and fame resulted in his election as Governor in 1769.

During the Revolutionary War, Jonathan used his logistical skills and turned Connecticut into the "Provision State" supplying the Continental Army. Gov. Trumbull was the only colonial governor to support the Revolution! He was highly regarded by Gen. George Washington and was known to Washington as "Brother Jonathan." His personal life included a marriage to Faith Robinson, a direct descendant of *Mayflower* immigrant Priscilla Alden.

Their son Jonathan Jr.<sup>6</sup> was an aide to Gen. Washington during the Revolution and served the new U.S.A. as governor of the State of Connecticut, a member and Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate. Their other son, John Trumbull,<sup>7</sup> became famous as the "Artist of the American Revolution." John's 12x18-foot oil painting *Declaration of Independence* hangs in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. A smaller version can be seen at the Yale University Art Gallery.

1 Judah Trumble, b. 06 Jun 1648, Rowley, Massachusetts; d. 01 Apr 1692 in Suffield; m. 1st Ann Swan of Rowley d. 1667 and m. 2nd Mary Pritchard in Brookfield. Mary Pritchard, dau. Of William Pritchard and Hannah Langdon; b. ca. 1654 in Ipswich, Massachusetts; d. 06 Jun 1722 as 3rd wife of Victory Sikes.

2 Joseph Trumble, b. 19 May 1649 in Rowley, Massachusetts; d. 15 Aug 1684 in Suffield; m. Hannah Smith 06 May 1669 in Rowley. Hannah Smith, dau. of Hugh and Mary Smith; b. 24 Mar 1647 in Rowley; d. 27 Mar 1719 in Windsor.

3 Joseph Trumble Jr. (later Trumbull) b. 1 Jan 1678 in Suffield; d. 15 Jun 1755 in Lebanon; m. Hannah Higley 01 Aug 1704 in Simsbury. Hannah Higley, dau. of Capt. John Higley and Mary Drake; b. 22 April 1683 in Windsor; d. 08 Nov 1768. His 1730 store is on the National Historic Register.

4 Joseph Trumbull III, b. 1705; d. 1732.

5 Jonathan Trumbull, b. 12 Oct 1710; d. 17 Aug 1785.

6 Jonathan Trumbull Jr., b. 26 Mar 1740; d. 08 Aug 1809.

7 John Trumbull, b. 06 Jun 1756; d. 10 Nov 1843.

## REFERENCES

*Documentary History of Suffield (1670-1749)*, by H. S. Sheldon; *Trumble Genealogy*, Suffield Historical Society Website; *Histories of Lebanon, Ct.* (internet); *Genealogy of John Trumble, of Newcastle on Tyne, England, the immigrant; Father of Judah and Joseph Trumble, Suffield Original Proprietors* (internet); *The Story Of Connecticut*, by Lewis Mills 1932.

## BITS AND PIECES

by Anne Borg

**THANK YOU!** Once again, the Society would like to thank *Wilma's Scoop du Jour* for providing – at cost – the ice cream for our July Social which was well attended despite the heat. Many thanks also to Paul (and Jean) Kulas and Jim Turek for filling the evening with melodious music.

**WORK DAY** will be Saturday, October 19, from 9 to Noon. Bring your rakes, gloves and dusters and come help us put the house and yard to bed.

**THE CIVIL WAR** exhibit continues through September. Lester has done a superb job of showcasing Suffield letters, photos and other memorabilia. If you haven't been to the King House this summer, come visit this exhibit mounted to commemorate the war's 150th anniversary.

## TRAGEDIES DELAY CARRIAGE

by Lester Smith, Curator

It's been quite a while since Parkes Loomis's old New Haven-made family carriage was sent off to be restored. We gave the job to Jim Chevalier in Belchertown, Mass., who had done a fine job with the John Wells Loomis cigar wagon about four years ago. After Jim completed the structural repair, he took the carriage down to Pennsylvania for a new top, as he had done with the cigar wagon. Unfortunately, after starting work on the top, the craftsman in Pennsylvania died. It took Jim a while to choose the right person to take over the task, who was in Ohio. So it was Westward Ho! for our carriage, to Woodlyn Coach, in Millersburg, Ohio.

After that, I didn't hear from Jim for several months. When I called in June to ask for a progress report, it was the widow Chevalier who answered the phone! Jim had died some weeks before, and she had not been able to find our phone number. After condolences, I called Woodlyn Coach to make sure they knew they had a discriminating customer. Work on the top is under way.

## HELP WANTED

An interesting project at the King House Museum awaits a mechanically-inclined volunteer. Several years ago Jean and Paul Sutton donated the big platform scale from the Eastman tobacco warehouse they were remodeling. The scale was disassembled for the move, stored in the King House stable, then moved into our new barn when that became available. Nothing is missing; we know how it must go together; but some parts need rust removal and new paint.

With two classically fluted columns supporting the balance beam and a big HOWE lettered across the top, this will be an impressive addition to our exhibits in the barn. Anyone interested?

## CATS AND DOGS: *An Appeal for Holidayfest*

As always, we depend on members and other friends to provide the content for our customary two-day Holidayfest exhibit on the first weekend of December. We chose *It's Raining Cats and Dogs* for this year's show, and I hope the precipitation starts soon in the form of phone calls and emails from those of you who can lend some appropriate examples. (Nothing alive, if you please.)

Decorative or utilitarian or funny or whatever, from small to almost too large, we hope to assemble another great show. Please help!

Lester Smith, Curator

Cell: 860-471-1915 Email: lws5@cox.net

## NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

If you haven't mailed in your annual contribution and can't find your envelope, you may make a donation when you send in your dues with the renewal form in this newsletter. Note the date on your mailing label. If it says 2013, you paid dues for the 2012-13 year. Dues payable now are for 2013-14. If the date says 2014, you are already paid up.

The E-mail address is optional and is used only for reminders of upcoming meetings or activities. Please include your e-mail, if you would like a reminder. Please also update address information.

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## 2013-2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

I/we subscribe to the mission of the Suffield Historical Society, which is to collect, preserve, and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.

Miss/Ms/Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues:     Individuals                    \$10.00  
            Family                                \$15.00  
            Youth/Student                        \$2.50  
            Patron                                    \$25.00  
            Supporter                                \$50.00  
            Benefactor                              \$100.00  
            Additional donation                \_\_\_\_\_  
           Amount enclosed                \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any committee or committees that are of interest to you.

\_\_\_ Collections                    \_\_\_ Development  
 \_\_\_ Tour Guide                    \_\_\_ Exhibitions  
 \_\_\_ Property                        \_\_\_ Membership  
 \_\_\_ Program                        \_\_\_ Special Events  
 \_\_\_ Publicity and Marketing  
 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

The Internal Revenue Service has granted tax exempt status to the Suffield Historical Society.

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to  
*Suffield Historical Society, c/o Gary Mandirola, 1600 North Street, Suffield, CT 06078.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUFFIELD ON THE GREEN

Saturday, September 7 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 8 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visit our booth on the Town Green

### ANTIQUÉ CAR SHOW

Sunday, September 8

King House Lawn 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### THE GREAT ESCAPE OF WHALLEY AND GOFFE

Wednesday, September 11

Kent Memorial Library 7:30 p.m.

*Edward Whalley and Major-General William Goffe, who had condemned King Charles I to death, escaped as fugitives to Boston in July 1660.*

*Come hear the story of their breath-taking adventures in New England to evade arrest by the King's Commissioners.*

### HOW TO PERPETRATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FRAUD

Wednesday, October 16

Kent Memorial Library 7:30 p.m.

*From the Cardiff giant to P.T. Barnum's fakes, be entertained with stories of famous fakes, forgeries and frauds.*

*Professor Ken Feder provides tips and tidbits about famous fakes and spotting a hoax ... and even how some were created!*

### HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Wednesday, November 6

Kent Memorial Library 7:30 p.m.

*See magic in the mundane and discover wonders in the commonplace world around us. Let author, poet and lecturer David Leff open your eyes to the historic, natural and quirky wonders hidden in plain sight. Travel from diners to big trees, cider mills to old mileposts, racetracks to ghost towns.*

**Reminder:  
Clip & Mail  
Your 2013-14 Dues Form**

Newletter  
Maggie Philippson, Editor  
Anne Borg, Compiler

King House Museum  
232 South Main Street  
Open to the Public  
Wednesdays and Saturdays  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
May through September

www.SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org

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Suffield Historical Society, Inc.

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