

#### <sup>4</sup> UPCOMING EVENTS

##### MARK TWAIN HOUSE IN HARTFORD

Wednesday, April 16 7:30 PM

Kent Memorial Library

Jeffrey Nichols Mark Twain House

*This presentation will provide some insight on America's best known author, why he moved to Hartford and why he built his mansion there.*

*It will also examine his activities and the books he worked on while a local resident.*

##### FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, PHOTOGRAPHER

Wednesday, May 14 7:30 PM

Kent Memorial Library

Bob Stewart West Suffield

*Born in 1864, Miss Johnston was internationally known as the*

*"photographer of the American Court" by 1895.*

*This presentation will feature reproductions of her work as the first official White House photographer.*

*Some of her portraits of famous Americans as well as her photographs of workers, southern schools, and industrial plants will also be shown.*

##### Suffield Historical Society

P.O. Box 893

Suffield, Connecticut 06078

(860) 668-5256

www.SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org

King House Museum  
232 South Main Street

Open to the Public  
Wednesdays and Saturdays  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
May through September

Newsletter Editor  
Maggie Philippon

##### OLD SUFFIELD

Wednesday, June 18 7:30 PM

Kent Memorial Library

*We will view another thematic program devoted to the great collection of over 2,000 photographs that was assembled by Hawley Rising, former historian for the Society and the town.*

##### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday, July 17 5:30 PM

King House

*Bring friends and family to an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social on the King House lawn.*

*Pack a picnic, bring lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of neighborly visiting. The Society will provide ice cream and entertainment.*

Raindate: Thursday, July 24

##### KING HOUSE MUSEUM

opens Saturday May 3

It will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

*Wednesdays and Saturdays through September and by appointment. 668-5256*



The King House Museum

# Stony Brook CURRENTS

Vol. III, No. 2

A Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society

April 2008

**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.**

##### Suffield Historical Society

*President*

Edward Chase, III

*Vice President*

Arthur Sikes, Jr.

*Treasurer*

Gary Mandirola

*Secretary*

Nancy Noble

*Historian & Curator*

Lester Smith

##### Committee Chairmen

Samuel S. Fuller, *Investments*

Robert C. Stewart, *Programs & Events*

Arthur Sikes, Jr.

*Membership*

Barry Sisk, *Long-Range Planning*

##### Trustees

Jim Baker

Marjorie Begin Frank Beneski

Anne Borg Blair Childs

Terry Mandirola James Reeves

Margaret Shaughnessy

Barry Sisk

##### King Property Trustees

Edward Chase, III

William Connelly

Hazel Phillips

##### Original Proprietors: James King

by Ed Chase

In 1678, James King received a 60-acre land grant in Suffield. His was the 8th homelot south of Mapleton Avenue on High Street (now North Main). The first American record of James appears eight years earlier in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

He and his brother William were brought or sent to Massachusetts after the death of their mother in 1662 in England. Their father was involved in the fishing industries that flourished along the Atlantic Coast of the American colonies.

At age 30, James sold his Ipswich properties, moved with his wife and a young son to Suffield, and assumed the role of original proprietor. Five years earlier, in 1674, James had married Elizabeth Fuller, and the following year a son James was born to the young couple. This son was the first of nine children born to them; all the later children were born in Suffield. The family prospered in Suffield. Eight months after the death of Elizabeth in 1715, James married Hannah Loomis in Westfield. Hannah died without issue in 1720. At the time of his death in 1722, local records show a considerable personal estate and much land in his name.

Many of his descendants helped shape Suffield's history, and several treasured antique Suffield homes were built by King family members.

One notable great-great-great-grandson is Dr. Alexander King, whose home is now the headquarters for the Suffield Historical Society, open as a museum house and incorporated into our masthead above. Alexander was a physician and served as selectman for 30 years, a delegate to the Connecticut General Assembly and Town Clerk. It is through a journal entry by Alexander that this author learned that James King's father drowned off the banks of Newfoundland in the course of his business.

NOTE: Elizabeth Fuller King was the sister of Joseph Fuller, the soldier. Joseph bought the Bush properties as described in an earlier *Stony Brook Currents* edition.

William King, b. c1622, Uxborough, Devonshire, England; m. 1642 Agnes Elwill in Uxborough; d. drowned off Newfoundland, date unknown. Agnes died in Uxborough 1662. Children of William and Agnes Elwill King: William, bapt. 1643 and James, bapt. 1647. both in Uxborough. James m. Elizabeth Fuller in Ipswich, MA in 1674.

Children of James and Elizabeth Fuller King: James, 1675, Ipswich, MA; William b. 1679 d. 1680, Agnes b. 1682, Benjamin b. 1683, Benoni, b. 1685 d. 1686, Joseph b. 1687 d. 1688, Joseph\* b. 1692, William b. 1695. \*Alexander is a descendant of James, the first born son of James King the Original Proprietor.

*Documentary History of Suffield*, Hezekiah S. Sheldon; *The King Genealogy*, Cameron H. King, 1908; *The Diary of Dr. Alexander King, 1737-1802*.

### WORK DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There will be a spring work day on Saturday morning, April 19, 9-12 (rain date April 26) at the King House. The house itself needs to be vacuumed, dusted, dust covers removed and the like before opening for the season.

The yard needs a lot of sprucing up, as winter left a number of large branches on the lawn. Volunteers should bring saws, rakes and pruners.

If you can give some time, please join us in an old-time, neighborly, cooperative effort and help make this old house shine!

### SOCIETY MEMBERS MAN ARCHIVES

Did you know that the library's Historical Room is staffed on Thursday evenings primarily by members of the Suffield Historical Society? The following dedicated people have been helping researchers for a number of years:

- Natalie Mahoney
- Art Sikes
- Ed Chase
- Pat Noble
- Anne Borg

We commend and thank them for their commitment of time and their interest in sharing local history with other town residents. Stop in for a visit to see what treasures they can show you!



*Nancy Noble and Gary Mandirola with items of yesteryear at Suffield's Business Showcase*



*Bob Stewart trying his hand at ice cutting with Dennis Picard at Sunrise Park*

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members since January:

- Frank White      Lewis Cannon      Ron Carlson
- Lorraine Rapacki                      Ron Jauregui
- Norann Coggins                      Jim and Nancy Viggiano
- Larry and Sue Agan                      Holly Banak
- Mary Mettler                              Elizabeth Tucker

### NEW PROJECT: COLLECTION INVENTORY

Over the past two winters Curator Lester Smith, Anne Borg, Ruth Sisk and Jan Peake have been working on sorting and organizing paper and photo files as well as cataloging new items at the King House Museum. As work progressed, it became evident that an inventory of the museum's collection would be most useful.

Several curators have had a hand in creating the records, with the result that information was not consistent. Moreover, items have been moved to new locations without this being recorded. An inventory would resolve these issues, but also give a better understanding of current holdings and how they might be best organized and stored.

Volunteers are needed to do this project, which would, of necessity, be a long-term process. Inventory is done in teams of two.

If you would like to be part of a team, please contact Anne Borg at 668-7841 or Lester at the King House, 668-5256.

### FROM DR. KING'S JOURNAL

May 4, 1774 Cold storm of snow - - - the night following Froze very hard ice an inch thick. The currant Price of Indian Corn 2/ rye 2/9 [2 shillings and nine pence]

May 10 last night Capt Austin's House was consumed by Fire from a Candle which fired som Tow and Flax

May 12 Genl Election at Hartford attended the Genl Assembly The new made Town of Westmoreland [a Connecticut town in northeastern Pennsylvania] sent 2 Deputies but they were not admitted nor their Votes Counted for Govr and Council this week Arrived 4 Ships in the Harbour at Boston and have Locked up the Port by Virtue of an Act of Parliament to stop all Traffic except Provisions and Fuell until sd Town of Boston shall pay for the Tea that was sunk last Spring

this Act of Parliment is Greatly Alarming to all the British Colonies in America the Genl Assembly of this Colony passed many Spirited Resolves relating to American Liberty, in the Lower House of Assembly passed a Bill for a publick Feast when the Govr and Council shall Judge it convenient - - - a Bill was brot into the House to raise a Contribution in the Colony for the Relief of the poor People in Boston which was continued to October [the General Assembly met twice a year, May and October] - - - We hear from Boston that 2 or three Regiments were ordered into the Town, the Situation of American Affairs is really Alarming. The most Intelligent People imagine our Charter will all be Vacated unless some speclated Measures are taken by the Americans

*Submitted by Lester Smith, Curator*

### HATS, HATS AND MORE HATS!

A new exhibit being mounted for the upcoming season will be a display from our collection of ladies' and gentlemen's hats.

If any of you has a hat or hats that you would be willing to lend to augment the display, please contact Jan Peake at 668-2553, Lester Smith at 668-7256 or leave a message at the King House at 668-5256. We have special interest in pre-Civil War era hats.

Be sure to include a trip to this exhibit in your outings with out-of-town guests and local friends during the summer. Remember the King House opens for the season on Saturday, May 3.

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### Membership Application for *New Members Only*

I/we subscribe to the mission of the Suffield Historical Society as published in its newsletter and wish to be included in its membership.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dues:    Individuals      \$10                      Family      \$15

        Youth (under 18)    \$2                      Patron      \$25

        Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ Collections                      \_\_\_\_\_ Development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Docents                              \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Property                              \_\_\_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program                              \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity and Marketing

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.