

Whittelsey-Whittlesey Family Newsletter

May 7, 2015

Whittlesey Gathering- July 25, 2015

The specific schedule of events for this day are still in the formative stages but may consist of the following:

Saturday morning 10:30 AM ? earlier ?

Dedication of Renovated Monument-Old Saybrook, Connecticut

Possible visit to the John Whittlesey and Ambrose Whittlesey Houses

Possible visit to the Old Saybrook Historical Society/Hart House

Tour of Cypress and Center Cemeteries in Old Saybrook

Family meeting at Cypress Cemetery after dedication to discuss formation of a Whittlesey Family Association.

Visit and activities in Salem, Connecticut. Early to mid-afternoon and evening

Tour of Mosswood Glen Cemetery

Recital of Orramel Whittlesey's Music on an 1829 Whittlesey Piano

Tour of Salem Historical Society and introduction to Whittlesey Museum Plans.

Play or talks about the Music Vale Seminary, Mosswood Glen Cemetery and the Whittlesey Piano

Promotion of this event

This newsletter may reach 400 email addresses initially and about 100 persons on LinkedIn. It will then appear on the Whittlesey Group on Facebook.

Reply and Forward

Two easy-to-use functions are 'Reply' and 'Forward' Please use 'Reply' to let me know that your email address is valid. Please also follow that up by using 'Forward' to members of your immediate family and to any Whittlesey Lineage Cousins, Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews. Etc. and pass their email addresses on to me for our mailing list.

Attendance at the Gathering and Comments and Suggestions

Please indicate if you and any family members are planning to attend. In future newsletters I will include a list of probable attendees. Suggestions about any other activities would be appreciated as well as comments on those listed above.

Salem Historical Society and Purpose for Activities There

Below are most of the contents of an email letter received from Dave Wordell which support our plans to include Salem as a highlight to our gathering.

Hello Willis

My name is David Wordell, President of the Salem Historical Society for the past 3 yrs has been heavily involved with the restoration and rebuilding of the Rev. John Whittlesey House and creating the new

Whittlesey Museum at Music Vale. Jennifer Sims and her husband Robert, gave us the money to purchase the house one yr. ago. In addition, we have been able to raise about \$20,000 and have done investigative work as well revealing the inner structure and have found the existing additions have very poor workmanship and materials. We are now contracting with an architect from Old Lyme to advise us as to how to go forward with a sound structural addition to the 1690 Little Red Cottage. The rebuilding will require more additional funds than originally anticipated. We now have a strategic plan and vision and a long term plan to include a Bela Lyon Pratt annex with some of his existing sculptures. One has already been gifted to us. I do hope that certain members of the Whittlesey family will step up and aid in this endeavor.

Recently, we found some unpublished music composed by Orramel. Last year we restored the 1829 original piano-forte that we have owned since John Bodman was president. I produced for the Salem Historical Society, a CD called Orramel Whittlesey...His Music, which was professionally recorded on the 1829 piano-forte with an ensemble singing his lyrics. *It came out great and we are currently selling them for \$25 each with \$3 S&H to be added.*
They are available on our website salemhistoricalsocietyct.org

I had been told last Fall, that you may be coming to Salem in July around the 25th or 26th. The date isn't that important but you need to let me know because the society will plan to have the Rev. John Whittlesey house open, but note it will be in a reconstruction state, also, we will open the Society Museum with all the Whittlesey memorabilia as well as the 2 pianos. If this could take place on a Saturday then we could schedule a redo on the 1829 piano with the people who created the CD. That is why I need to know if and when you are considering coming. I would also open our Carriage Museum for you as we are located close by and have an authentic reproduction of Orramel's Concord coach called "Bluebird" which my wife and I had re-created last yr. for the 175th anniversary of Music Vale Seminary. Regards, David Wordell

2015 Old Saybrook Arts and Crafts Festival July 25-26, 2015

<http://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/pages/ArtsCraftsFestival/>

Whittlesey-Whittelsey Family Website

<http://www.whittlesey-whittelseygenealogy.com/>

I am presently making some changes on the website and will shortly have a full page or section devoted to the Music Vale Seminary which will include pictures, newspaper clippings, etc. pertaining to that part of the Whittlesey Family History.

Changes in website: I am removing those ancestors and relatives of mine who are not descended from John Whittelsey (1623-1704). Thus the website will be totally dedicated to Whittlesey Family history and information concerning the descendants of John.

Anyone is welcome to submit photos, headstone pictures, obituaries and any other documentation which will enhance our knowledge of our ancestors lives.

The next newsletter/gathering update, which will be sent the week of May 18th as I will be attending a The National Genealogical Society Family History Conference in St. Charles, Missouri next week.
Willis