



The Bridge

Electronic Newsletter from the Naugatuck Historical Society: April, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3

April, 2011

Thomas Neary - A tradition begins

Thomas Neary was born in Ireland on April 1, 1832 and married Eliza Buggy who was born in Ireland on February 3, 1830. According to the 1880 Census, Thomas was a saloon keeper in Naugatuck. His son John, who was 23 at the time of the Census also worked in the saloon. His son Richard was a blacksmith. He also had a daughter, Julia who was 12 years old and a son William who was 11 at the time of the Census. Lawrence Neary, who worked in the foundry

and Henry Freeman, who was a blacksmith, boarded with the Neary family.

In 1911, Thomas' son, William became the Warden in Naugatuck. In the Census of 1870 his children are listed as John, age 13; Richard, age 12; Catherine, age 8; Eliza, age 6; Julia, age 4 and William, age 2. As Warden, William undertook the brick paving of Maple Street despite a great deal of opposition. People were up in arms about this spend-

ing which would cost thousands. William prevailed and the Maple Street road stayed in good condition for the next 40 years. William also operated a wholesale and retail liquor business on Water Street.

I never said all Democrats are saloon-keepers. What I said is that all saloon-keepers are Democrats. – Horace Greeley.

Story by Sandra Clark, Town Historian



Elizabeth Keckley was best known as dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln and as author of *"Behind the Scenes, 30 years a slave and four years in the White House"*

Elizabeth (Hobbs) Keckley was born into slavery in 1818. By 1855 Elizabeth had amassed enough money through profits from sewing, and loans from a patron to purchase freedom for herself and her son at the cost of \$1200, a substantial sum in 1855. She made her way

to Washington D.C., where her dressmaking skills and entrepreneurial savvy brought her to the attention of many political families, including Mrs. Jefferson Davis. She also sewed for the daughter of General Sumner who eventually recommended her to Mrs. Lincoln

Mary Lincoln hired Madame Keckley, launching a relationship unlike any "Lizzy" had ever envisioned for herself. She was often there, in the room, with President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln during some of their most private and difficult moments.

The Story of the Dressmaker and the First Lady

While she is best known for her talents as Mary Todd Lincoln's dressmaker and 'stylist' if you will, the story before and beyond her connection to the White House is equally compelling.

Living history at its best!

By Bridget Mariano, Museum Advisor

High Tea and Dramatic Presentation April 16th, 1 p.m. Neary Ballroom

Corner of Church and Maple Streets Naugatuck

There will be High Tea at 1 p.m. followed by the dramatic presentation. Please call for reservations at 203-729-9039, tickets are limited. \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

Enjoy live music and performance, raffles, food and more.

Naugatuck Historical Society Museum
195 Water Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770
203 729 9039
Naugatuckhistory@sbcglobal.net
www.naugatuckhistory.com

April:

Art Show Committee	2
Civil War Soldiers, 6 - 8pm	7
Colette's Crafts, 11am	9
Board Meeting, 7pm	13
They Called Me Lizzy, 1pm at the Neary Ballroom	16
Earth Day Clean up, noon	22

Coming Soon

- ◆ June 4th
Celebration of Art
- ◆ First Thursdays,
May 5th, Hillside Band
June, Youth Art Display
- ◆ Colette's Craft Program,
Special Summer Sessions

The Bridge

First Thursdays

A Visit from Civil War Soldiers

Ray Manzi and other members of the Woodbury based Civil War re-enactor unit, the 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery, Company I, will join us to talk about Connecticut's role in the Civil War.

The 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery is a non profit civil war reenacting organization. It was founded in 1997 to commemorate the men and the time period of the original 19th Connecticut



Volunteer Infantry and the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery, Company I of Woodbury, CT. Besides reenactments, many of the members make appearances throughout New England at school programs, community events and historical societies, educating the public on the life of the soldiers and civilians during the "Period of Rebellion". The 2nd Connecticut portrays Union (Federal) infantry focused on June 1st, 1864, the Battle of Cold

Harbor, VA when the original men of the 2nd Connecticut received their "Baptism under Fire" after being ordered by General Grant out of the forts of Washington to replenish the Union Army's numbers.

For more information on this unit visit their website www.the2dconn.com

First Thursdays
Civil War Soliders
April 7th 6-8pm



Community Connections

Organization Connections

In March we were proud to be a part of the Cultural Council's first annual International Cultural Heritage Night at the Naugatuck High School. We are looking forward to the sounds of the Naugatuck Community Band at our High Tea on April 16th.

Educational Connections

We are pleased to be continuing to work with the high school in a multitude of ways including getting volunteers for the program on April 16th. May will see us working with some of the Hillside Band players to provide First Thursday entertainment.

Business Connections

We owe a special thanks to the law offices of Fitzpatrick, Santos, and Mariano for allowing us the use of the Neary Building for our High Tea. We are also very grateful to the Hills Restaurant for supplying enough chairs for the event.

"People who like this sort of thing will find this the sort of thing they like."

Abraham Lincoln

Colette's Craft Program

A hands on approach to history

Colette's Craft program will be held on the second Saturday of every month at 11 am. Registration is highly recommended.

The program is recommended for children ages 5 and up. This program is open to member and non-members.

Call to volunteer or register. Admission is free for children participating in the program, but there is a \$2 supply fee. Regular admission applies to adults, \$2 or free with membership.

April 9 – Origami Flowers, when did paper folding become art and why?

May 14 – The American flag in 1861, What's up with the stars?

Stay tuned for special summer programs.

