

## Program Announcement

# History of Women in Medicine –Russell Library– June 24, 2008

American women have practiced medicine from the time of the first European settlements in the seventeenth century to the present day. On Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, Rebecca Tannenbaum will discuss these practitioners, beginning with the midwives and “doctoresses” of the colonial period through the pioneering women physicians of the nineteenth century. Dr. Tannenbaum’s presentation will be funded by a donation from Aetna, which also provided support for “From Neighborhood to Nation: Women and Health Care in Middlesex County,” the exhibit that opened at the Mansfield House in December 2007.



A lecturer in the Department of History at Yale University since 2001, Dr. Tannenbaum is a graduate of Wesleyan University and holds a PhD in History from Yale. Her research has focused on the history of medical care, especially the roles of women as health care providers. Her book, *The Healer's Calling: Women and Medicine in Early New England*,

was published by Cornell University Press in 2001. Dr. Tannenbaum has taught courses on women's history, the history of medicine, colonial America, and the American Revolution at Yale and the University of Chicago and spoken for a variety of organizations.



Dr. Rebecca Tannenbaum

This event, cosponsored with the Russell Library, will take place

in the Hubbard Room at the Library at 7:00pm. Admission is free. Please join us! 🍷📖



## What's Inside:

Society News and Events

Calendar of Events

# SOCIETY NEWS

Dear Members,  
*The Middlesex County Historical Society needs you!*

Paying annual dues is the first step (a very important first step) in being a Historical Society member. Attending lectures, presentations, and other events is another way to be involved. But, have you ever wondered if there was more? For those members who have the time and interest, the Board and I can firmly answer, "Yes!"

As the Historical Society becomes more active, offering more programs and becoming more involved in the community, there is a need for volunteers to serve on a variety of committees. If you have a skill or an interest to share, there is undoubtedly a place for you. Current opportunities include:

- **Exhibit preparation and installation** – Next fall we will be installing "Hard & Stirring Times": Middletown & the Civil War, our long-anticipated permanent exhibit. Volunteers who would be willing to help prepare and paint gallery walls are welcome.



- **Bakers and cooks** – Perhaps, like me, you love to bake but do not have family close to home to eat what you make. The Historical Society likes to offer home-made refreshments as part of its events and would welcome your help once or twice a year.

- **Telephone tree** – Do you love to chat on the phone or would you like an occasional project you can do at home? Volunteer bakers and cooks need to know when the Society needs their help. A phone tree coordinator will call two or three volunteers for each event so we have enough refreshments.

If any of these opportunities appeals to you, please call me (860) 346-0746 or email me at [mchs@wesleyan.edu](mailto:mchs@wesleyan.edu). If you are interested in helping with marketing, the newsletter, program planning, or other aspects of historical society activities, let me know and I will forward your name to the appropriate committee chair person.

Your active participation is essential in building a better Historical Society. Please volunteer! 🐾

*Donna Baron*

Donna Baron, Executive Director

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two years ago, the Society had no Director, the Mansfield House was closed to the public, and we were faced with the job of rebuilding the organization. As of this date, I am pleased to report that we are well on the way to completing that task.

In the fall of 2006, we took the first step by hiring Donna Baron as Director, and since that time, she has orchestrated a multitude of events at the Mansfield House, including a new exhibit on Women in Medicine and December's upcoming Civil War exhibit. We have had more programs than ever before, and have been able to pay for much of the activity through grants. You have read about the events in recent newsletters and many of you have enjoyed the exhibits and programs.

The second part of the plan was to recruit an active board of directors supported by a cadre of volunteers. During the past several months, the Society has undergone an organizational review conducted by the National Executive Service Corps. NECS assisted us in re-working the governance of our Society, and enhancing the opportunities for volunteers and the general membership. This task is underway and the new structure should be fully operational by mid-summer.

With a Director in place, more activity at the Mansfield House, and a sound organizational framework, the final piece of the puzzle is placing the Society on sound financial footing. While Donna has been very successful in obtaining grants, these funds have been designated for specific purposes, such as exhibits, programs, and capital repairs. Income from members, donations, income from the endowment, and our other sources of funds have not been sufficient to cover operating expenses. The troublesome financial markets have exacerbated the situation, and our endowment is declining in value. In order to recoup funds expended on various capital projects at the Mansfield House, and to replenish the reserve, we will conduct a capital campaign, commencing later this year. It has been more than ten years since the Society has reached out to the membership, and I hope our increased activity has given you a good reason to generously support our efforts. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure the future of the Society and our mission of preserving our region's history and bringing it back to life. 🐾

*Bill Ryczek*

Bill Ryczek, President



## Annual meeting 2008

Forty-one members and friends joined us at First Baptist Church on April 29, 2008, as Carl Mazzotta led us on an imaginary tour of the north end. Carl recalled buildings and businesses that once enlivened this end of Main Street, but are now gone. Memories of daily life and noteworthy disasters delighted and intrigued the audience. Historical Society President Bill Ryczek led the discussion and encouraged Carl to talk about his personal experiences here in Middletown and far away in places like Greenland. Carl has collected these stories and memories in a volume printed for his family. For those who missed his talk and are interested, Carl has donated a copy of this book to the Historical Society.

Before Carl's talk, the Society approved minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting, approved the 2008/09 budget, and elected members and officers for the Board of Directors. With all that the Historical Society will be doing for the next two years, special thanks are due to:

President – Bill Ryczek  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president – Dave Wolfram  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president – Richard Adelstein  
 Secretary – Nancy Bauer  
 Treasurer – Cathy Branch Stebbins  
 Chair, Museum Committee – Buck Zaidel  
 Chair, Buildings & Grounds – Debby Shapiro  
 Members-at-large –  
 Lee Guilmartin  
 Richard Kamins  
 Jeffrey Rabuffo  
 Ronald Schatz  
 John Shaw  
 Rosemary Shea  
 Brian Warmesley

Have you renewed your membership? Please check your records. About 100 of our valued members have not yet submitted their renewals.

This year, the Historical Society is planning an ever-growing calendar of events, many of which will focus on Middletown & the Civil War. Society members receive advance notice of many events, invitations to special events, and registration discounts. Members also receive *The Historical Observer*, the Society's newsletter. Increased production and mailing costs mean that only members who are up-to-date with their dues will continue to receive their copies.

Please, continue to support your Historical Society and help preserve community memory and renew your subscription today. If you are not sure whether you have renewed, please call the Mansfield House, 860-346-0746, and I will be happy to check for you.

Thank you for your interest and support,

*Donna Baron*

Donna Baron, Executive Director

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels

_____ Student \$15	_____ Business \$50
_____ Individual \$25	_____ Patron \$100
_____ Family \$35	_____ Life \$500

Please make checks payable to:  
 The Middlesex County Historical Society

Detach and send to:  
 General Mansfield House,  
 151 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457



# Middlesex County Historical Society

## Members 2007-2008

### Life

Nancy Bauer  
George & Camille  
Camp  
Eldon Crowell  
Arthur Director  
Mrs. J.M. Flagg  
Kathie Green  
Maria Holzberg  
Judith Johnson  
The Magee Company  
Phyllis H. Redford  
Scott Shapiro  
Ralph Shaw  
John Spaeth  
Bernice Stierlen  
Donald Taylor  
Elizabeth Warner  
James Webber  
Barbara & Nelson  
Wetmore  
Eleanor Wooten

### Patron

John Coughlin  
Michael & Liz Cubeta  
Robert Cumming  
David Williams  
Bruce Fraser  
Laurie & Peter Frenzel  
Dona Goodman  
Marnie Goodman &  
Gordon Hard  
Welles & Lillian  
Guilmartin  
May Bonee & Walsh  
Jack & Diana McCain  
Larry & Patty McHugh  
Margaret Merrill  
PCI Medical, Inc  
Deborah Shapiro  
Catherine Branch  
Stebbins  
Arthur E. Webster  
Cindy & David Wolfram

### Contributing/Business

Allen County Public  
Library  
Douglas Bennet  
Phil & Marie Cacciola  
CT Underwriters, Inc.  
Trevor Davis  
John Hall  
Edward McMillan

Middletown Adult  
Education  
Susan & William Wasch  
Middlesex Fruitery

### Family

Alexandra & Richie  
Adelstein  
Jennifer Alexander &  
Mark Masselli  
Susan, John, & Stephan  
Allison  
Dr. & Mrs. Mehadin  
Arafeh  
Michael & Kathleen  
Beal  
Edith & Marvin Betts  
Mr. & Mrs. John  
Bickford  
Ned & Nanci Bixler  
Kathryn Briggs  
Kenneth Brooks  
Kirsten Carlson &  
Anthony Kriwokuski  
Anne & Gabe  
Choquette  
Henry Clew  
Jack & Joyce Conklin  
Hugh & Judy Cox  
Marge & Richard  
DeBold  
Augie & Claudia  
DeFrance  
Laurie & Rick Dickerson  
Sue & Dick Dickerson  
John Doolittle  
George & Edith Dubey  
Bob & Suzy Dutcher  
Patricia Farrell & Peter  
Sipples  
Trish Finnegan  
Patricia & Robert  
Frederick  
Barbara & Richard  
Gibbons  
Valerie Gillispie & Alex  
Bajuniemi  
Michael Giuliano  
Lloyd & Ellen Goldberg  
Priscilla Harnesk  
Jane Harris  
Cheryl Hartwell  
Sallie Hayden & Jeff  
Bianco  
Hintgen-O'Sullivan  
family  
William Howard  
Regina Jacobson

Susanne Javorski  
Naomi and Richard  
Kamins  
Joyce & Robert  
Kirkpatrick  
Marcy & Ronald  
Klattenberg  
Emily & Edward Krieger  
Evelyn & William Larson  
Marc & Judith Levin  
Mark, Mardi & Malcolm  
Loman  
Lucky Lombardo  
Douglas R. Magee, Jr.  
Geoffrey & Loretta  
Marion  
Bill & Janet Maune  
Carl & Joan Mazzotta  
Ron & Lois McCutcheon  
Marcia & Arthur Meyers  
Sal & Joanne Misenti  
Ruth Montgomery  
Betsy & David Morgan  
John & Diane Otterbein  
Jennifer Pinch  
Irma Prue  
Elizabeth Rocco  
Michael & Nancy  
Rogalsky  
Edmund Rubacha  
Frank & Katherine  
Ryczek  
William & Susan Ryczek  
Robert & Elizabeth  
Santangelo  
Karl & Wendy Scheibe  
Tom & Maryann Serra  
Carol & Stephen  
Shapiro  
James & Nancy Shapiro  
John Shaw  
Sharon & William  
Sheedy  
Richard & Elizabeth  
Silocka  
Catherine Smythe  
Judith Stoughton  
Suzy Taraba & Marie  
Clark  
Arthur Taylor  
Arthur & Joan Upgren  
William & Kris Vasilou  
Edbert & Elizabeth Wall  
Carlton & Katherine  
Winslow  
Peter Zaidel

### Individual

Janice Albert  
David Arcidiacono  
John Bacon  
Reginald Bacon  
Barbara Bartoli  
Alice Bauer  
David Bauer  
Ann Bauer-Lawson  
Joanne Blake  
Barbara Brainard  
Martha Brooks  
Lois Bukowiec  
Loretta Cavanaugh  
William B. Cockrell  
Katherine Coley  
Richard Cotter  
Ellen D'Oench  
Janet Daniels  
Harry Dickerson  
Sarah Downes  
Charlene Engelsgaard  
Helen Errede  
Margaret McCutcheon  
Faber  
Catherine Fiducia  
Mary C. Flannery  
William Foye  
Guilio Giuffrida  
Dr. Barbara A. Glista  
Evelyn Godwin  
Estelle Goodman  
Erik Hanson  
Henry Hanson  
John Hennelly  
Paula Higgins  
William Howe  
Frances Into  
Charles Jarzabek  
Agnes Johnson  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Rebecca Kraussmann  
Jim Lamoureux  
Colleen Lawson  
Marilee Lee  
Richard Lee  
Audrey Livingston  
Ann Loffredo  
Eric Lowry  
Sonya Madoff  
Andrea Malon  
Frank Marsilli  
Carol Matregnano  
Arlene Mazzotta  
Lin Meeker

Chris Nichols  
Henry Otte  
Olivia Patch  
Rhonda Romus  
Jennifer Rozmeski  
James Rumberger  
Daniel Ryan  
Ronald Schatz  
Katherine Schoonover  
Muriel Schulman  
Rosemary Shea  
Cynthia Sheehan  
Doris Sherrow-Heidenis  
Janet Silver  
Peter Simmons  
Dan Sizer  
Carolee Sommers  
Brian Stewart  
Pete Sullivan  
Richard Tomc  
Jessie Trotta  
Patricia Tully  
Donna Vickers  
Mamie Vickers  
Barbara Warner  
Barbara Weiss  
H. Whitmore  
Lizabeth Whittaker  
Elma Wiacek  
Eva Williams  
Regina Woltmann

### Student

Mary Jane Dapkus

### Honorary

Gerald Augustine  
Raymond Beauregard  
Bergan Architectural  
Woodwork  
Arthur Bishel  
Scott Bishel  
Pete Bozzo  
William George  
Peter Gill  
Wallace Haas  
John Kuzminski  
Dione Longley  
Middletown Mayor's  
Office  
Bill Miller  
Mark Olerud  
Jack Pieper  
Sebastian Sbalcio

# Benjamin Douglas (1816-1894)

## – Businessman, Abolitionist, and Politician

*I*n 1832, a sixteen-year-old farm boy moved to Middletown from Northford, CT to apprentice with a machinist. After training for six years, Benjamin Douglas joined his older brother William in running a Middletown foundry and machine shop. William was the creative machinist while Benjamin was the organized businessman. In 1842, William invented a revolving stand pump and the brothers built the largest and most successful pump-making business in the world.

Following William's death in 1859, Benjamin incorporated W&B Douglas, which occupied 3 to 4 acres at the corner of William and Broad Streets and produced 1500 different styles and sizes of household, farm, and factory pumps. During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the company won many awards while representing the United States at international expositions in Paris, Vienna, Philadelphia, and Australia.

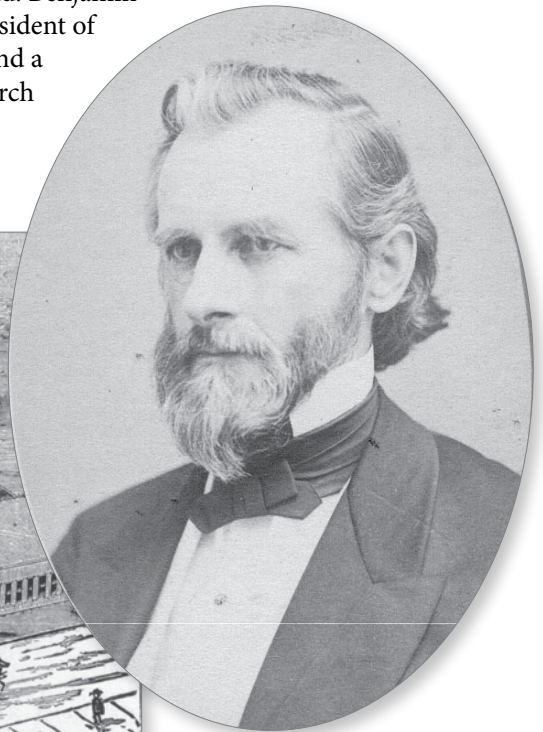
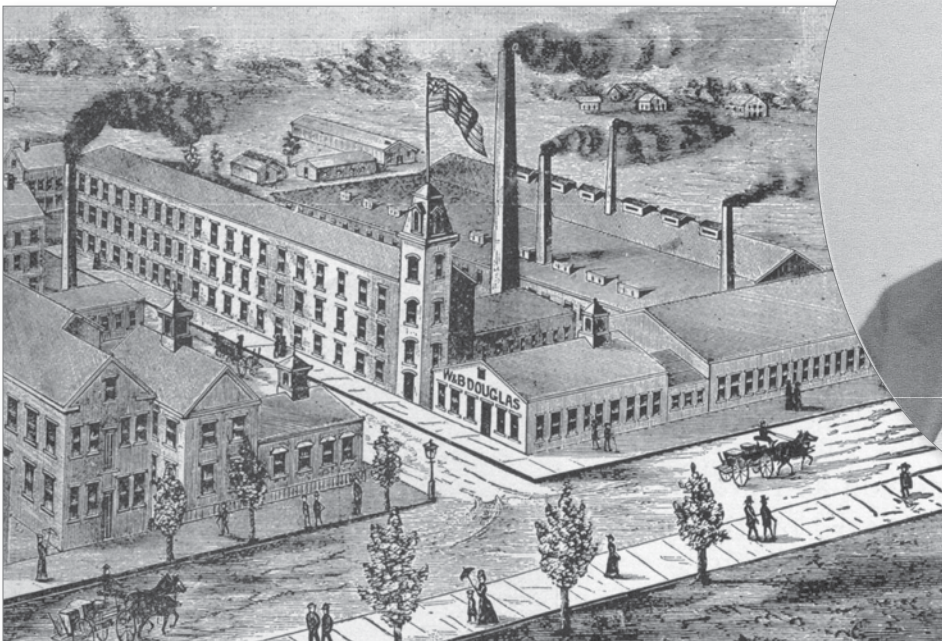
When he was twenty-two, Benjamin Douglas married Mary Adeline Parker, who was a niece of Colonel Joseph F.K. Mansfield. Both Benjamin and Mary were active members of the South Congregational Church as teenagers and their church remained a central part of their lives. Benjamin served in the Mansfield Guard, a local militia unit, and became involved in the growing anti-slavery movement in Middletown. During the 1840s and 1850s, Abolitionist Society meetings often took place on the pump company grounds. The earliest meetings ended in violent confrontation with Middletown anti-abolitionists. Tradition asserts that Benjamin Douglas

became an operator on the Underground Railroad and escaping slaves were hidden at his South Main Street home.

Benjamin was elected mayor of Middletown three times, serving from 1850 to 1856. He also served as Middletown's representative to the General Assembly in 1854 and 1872. A staunch Republican, Douglas served as a presidential elector in 1860 and cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln. From 1861-2, he served as Lieutenant Governor working with Governor William Buckingham to meet the demands of the Civil War.

As he encouraged his employees to enlist in the Union Army, Douglas promised that he would care for their families if they were injured or killed. While working tirelessly to provision Connecticut soldiers and provide support for their dependents during the Civil War, Douglas also led the effort to complete a new church building in 1868.

Both Benjamin and Mary served as Sunday school teachers at South Church. Mrs. Douglas also became a "Lady Visitor," supervising the care of students at the "Industrial School for Girls," and served as the first president of the Soldiers' Aid Society. Mary A. Douglas died in 1885 leaving behind six children and her much-bereaved husband. Benjamin continued as president of W&B Douglas and a leader in his church until his death in 1894. 🕊️





# THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

151 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457  
(860) 346-0746  
[www.middlesexhistory.org](http://www.middlesexhistory.org)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |   |  |                               |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>The Museum at the Mansfield House</b>  | <b>OPEN</b> Wednesdays<br>Thursdays & Fridays                  | 1:00 to 5:00<br>11:00 to 5:00 |
| <b>Downtown Cruise Night</b><br>Mansfield House Museum open   | Tuesday, June 17, 2008   | 4:00-8:00 p.m.                |
| <b>Rebecca Tannenbaum presentation</b> "Housewives, Midwives, and Physicians: American Women in Medicine"<br>Hubbard Room, Russell Library 123 Broad Street | Tuesday, June 24, 2008   | 7:00 p.m.                     |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Middletown Antique/Classic Car &amp; Truck Show and Flea Market</b><br>Pat Kidney Field, Middletown                               | Sunday, October 5, 2008<br>Rain date: Sunday, October 12, 2008 | 9:00-3:00                     |

### **The 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers** Saturday, October 18, 2008

Civil War re-enactors return to the Mansfield House for an encampment and a day of living history demonstrations and activities. Come one! Come all! Step into the 1860s with Company G of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.



Watch for special announcements of Victorian Garden party events over the summer

\*Note: All events will be held at General Mansfield House unless otherwise noted.

visit us on the web at [www.middlesexhistory.org](http://www.middlesexhistory.org)