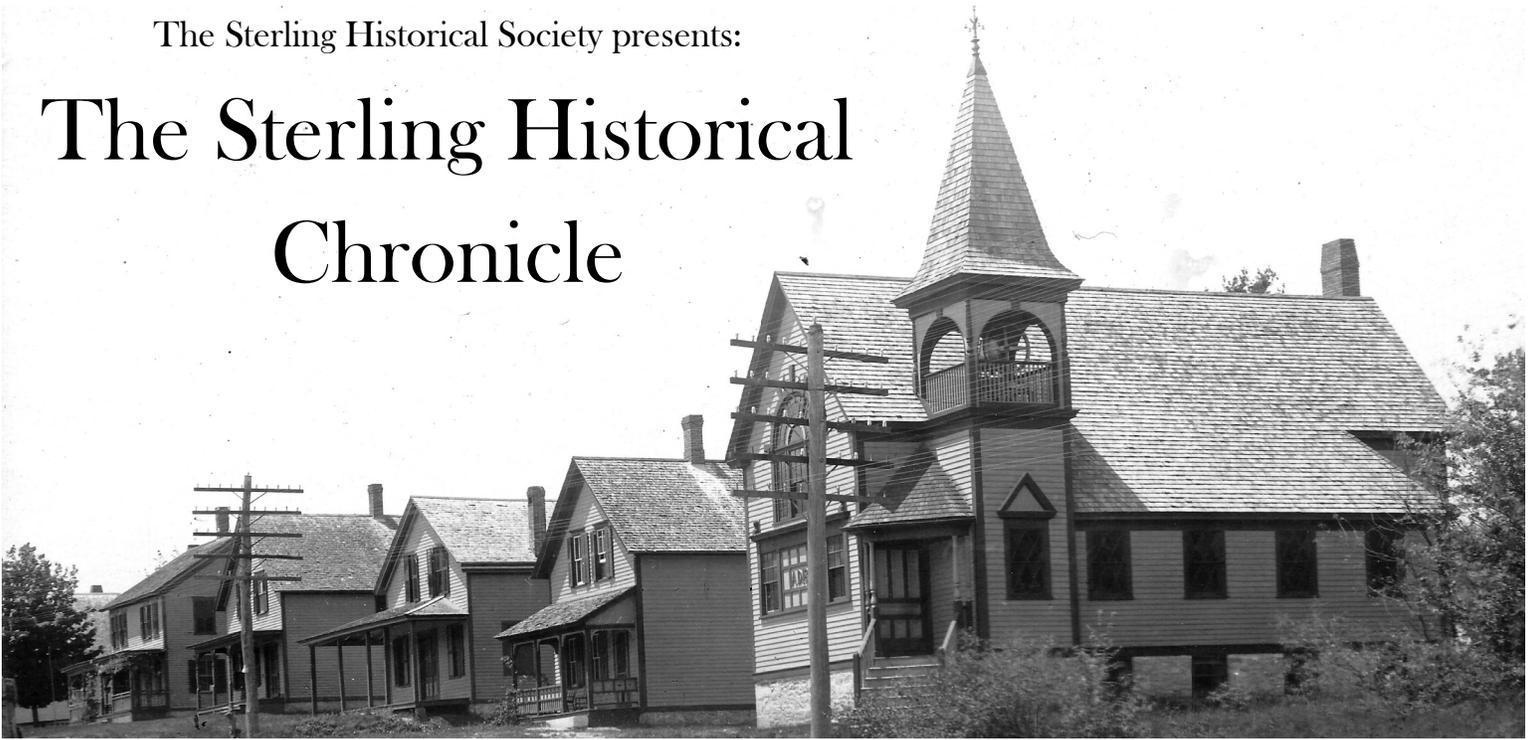


The Sterling Historical Society presents:

# The Sterling Historical Chronicle



VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 2018

ISSUE 2

As we say goodbye to 2018...

Dear Readers,

2018 is already coming to a close. Family Day has come and gone for another year, as well as Farm Day. Family Day is always the biggest day of the year for our historical society as planning begins months in advance, and it is the only day we are so visible to everyone in town. We had a lovely sign painted by Tammy Belliveau of Mill River Primitives to raffle off, which went to Laura Emerson. We raised over \$150 for our society through the sale of raffle tickets and our other merchandise. Speaking of merchandise, be sure to get your Christmas orders of Sterling in Retrospect in soon!



Our presentation on 18th Century Gravestone Carvers and the cemetery walk happened on October 20 with a moderate turnout and luckily the threatening rain held off so we could have our walk. Simultaneously we had a large turnout to our information table at Sterling Farm Day! This was our first year tabling at that event and we look forward to future Farm Days. They are one of the events that makes our town so wonderful.

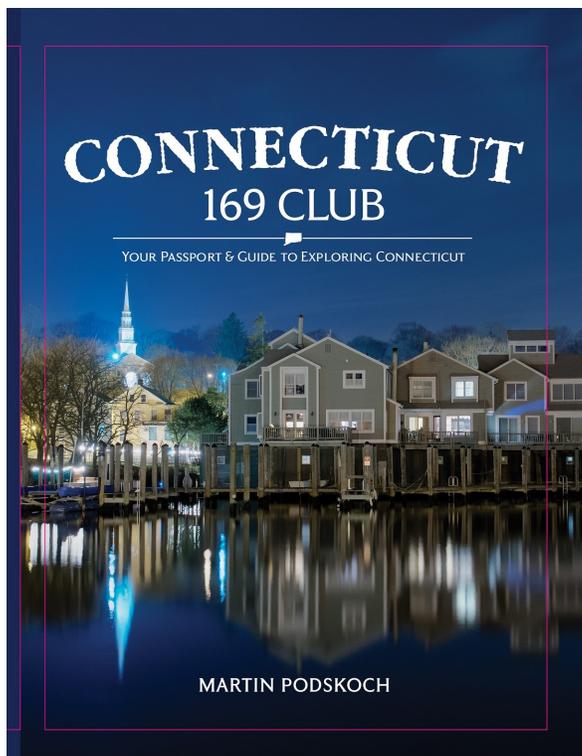
Speaking of which, read on to learn more about the latest book to feature our small town, the Connecticut 169 Club, and come to our book signing event at the Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm on December 8th! Hope to see you there.

-Megan McGory Gleason, President

## Sterling featured in the *Connecticut 169 Club*, the new travel book out now.

From the quaint splendor of the town of Kent in the northwest hills of Connecticut to the great restaurants that dot the shoreline of Westbrook to New Britain's industrial roots, travel and history author Martin "Marty" Podskoch is hoping to give Connecticut residents a chance to explore every municipality in the State of Conn. with his new book, *Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport and Guide to Exploring Connecticut*.

Martin Podskoch, a retired reading teacher from Delhi, NY and now lives in East Hampton, Conn. has compiled interesting information for his new Connecticut Travel Guide Book on the 169 towns, cities and villages in the State of Connecticut in the hopes of encouraging people to visit them all.



In the coming weeks and months, Podskoch will provide a preview of a municipality in his weekly column in *The New Britain Herald*, *The Bristol Press* and *The Willimantic Chronicle*, giving readers a first-hand look at the splendor that every nook and cranny in Connecticut has to offer.

"It doesn't matter what age people are or what means of transportation people use to get there," the 74-year-old author said. "The whole idea is to get people to see the many beautiful places in our state."

Podskoch's work is based on the premise that many people will continually visit one or two places in a state or generally hang out in their town or city, which causes them to miss the beauty and the interesting stories of other places right in their own state.

As a published author who has written six books on the history of the Adirondacks, fire towers and Civilian Conservation Corps camps, Podskoch decided to write a book about all 102 of the Adirondack towns based on the "Vermont 251 Club" formed in the 1950s. Professor Arthur W. Peach wrote an article in a Vermont magazine in 1954 where he encouraged people to "take the road less traveled and get to know all of Vermont."

Calling the book the "Adirondack 102 Club," Podskoch included a space for journaling and a place where readers could get it stamped, stickered or signed from a business or location indicating they had been at a particular town. "The whole thing is to make sure people visit and talk to people and not just drive through," he said. The reward for visiting all 102 towns was the "Vagabond"

patch. In the first year after the book was released in 2014 more than 4,000 copies were sold, Podskoch said. By 2015, five people had received their "Vagabond" patch during a dinner organized by ladies from the Brant Lake area who liked the idea of the club.

Podskoch is hoping to replicate the popularity of his idea of traveling to every town, city and village in the State of Conn. with the "Connecticut 169 Club." Like its predecessor, the book will have a space for journaling and a place to gather a stamp, sticker or signature, from every municipality visited. Podskoch recruited writers, historians, and officials from each town and asked them to write a short description about their town's history, interesting places to visit, and good places to eat.

The reward for visiting all 169 CT towns, cities and villages will be a "Leatherman" patch which commemorates this legendary vagabond, who during the late 1800s wore leather clothes and travelled a 365-mile circuit in approx. 34 days between the Hudson and Connecticut Rivers while camping out in caves.

Podskoch suggests that the whole family, including grandparents, can enjoy the adventure of exploring all 169 Connecticut municipalities together. "Let's all take the road less traveled," he said.

The new hard cover book has 368 pages, is 8.5" X 11" and has approx. 300 photos. The \$24.95 book is available at local book stores, Amazon, Barnes and Noble or by mail: Podskoch Press, 43 O'Neill Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424 (860)267-2442 Please include sales tax & \$4 shipping. [podskoch@comcast.net](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net)

### IF YOU WANT TO GO:

**WHAT:** Book Signing with Marty Podskoch and SHS members Ron Marchesseault and Megan McGory Gleason

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 8, 2018 2-4pm

**WHERE:** Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm

## From the archives: Girl Power!



What a surprise when this photograph arrived in our archives! We have seen a few Sterling Baseball team photographs as well as a photograph for Oneco from this time period, but always featuring men. This photograph, circa 1915-1920 features all women, and several of them have a baseball or a glove, or both. The only two currently identified women are Jane Randall (bottom, far left) and Angie (Sherman) Barr (bottom, center). If you know the identities of the other women, please let us know! Note the office for the U.S. Finishing Company in the background. *-Photo courtesy of Debbie Varieur*



MOST WINNING GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM, PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 1929

Front row (Left to Right): Priscilla Smith, Hilda Morgan, Irene Zercie. Second Row: Veronica Connelly, Sylvia Whitford, Dorothy Barber, Irene Generous, Norma Day. Back Row: Anna Herr, Flora Gallup, Coach Miss Helen Hayes, Evelyn Troening, Mildred Sykes.

# Research Requests

*These are requests which have been received by our society. We do our best to answer questions but perhaps our readers may be able to help, too! Please email [sterlinghistoricalsocietyct@gmail.com](mailto:sterlinghistoricalsocietyct@gmail.com) with information if you are able to help.*

- Information relating to John Parke (d. 1737) and his wife Miriam (d.1733), who are buried in Riverside Cemetery, as well as Jane Parke (d. 1756) and her husband James (unknown burial).
- Information relating to John Adams, wife Mary, daughter Angeline, son Curtis in Oneco circa 1870.
- Information relating to Roger Colvin and Lydia Guile/d circa 1804-1840, and William Guild.
- Primary source birth record for Gardiner Burlingame born December 19, 1796 to Thomas and Sarah (Montgomery) Burlingame, needed for D.A.R. application.
- Information relating to John Horan, who died from an apparent suicide on November 30, 1913, while visiting Alex Dougherty at the Sterling Hotel.
- Information regarding Ephraim Keech and wife Rebecca (Douglass) Keech and their farm on Sterling Hill circa 1860.
- Burial location for Hezekiah Matteson, will probated in 1782.

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 We have many resources available in our room for your own historical research including the C.E.T.A. Research papers compiled by a team of researchers in 1978 and led by Carolyn Bailey-Orr. This research, written by hand on several reams of yellow legal pads, has been organized and put into page protectors and binders by the SHS after we received the repository of information from the town hall. It took us five years of preparation to be able to present this project to the public! Much of the research was later compiled by Mrs. Orr into her book, *The Roads Lead Back to Glory* (1982), of which only 50 copies were originally printed. Another 50 were printed in 1991, and we are currently at work on scanning and digitizing her book in order to have it reprinted in the future.

.....  
 Other resources we have include Frank Decker's life work of *The Pike Saga*, five large tomes of genealogical research written by Mr. Decker from the 70's through 1990. We will also be digitizing these and printing them so that they will be available to the public for the first time ever.

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 We also have The Hale Collection, some early Voluntown church records, and many hard to find & out of print books relating to all of eastern Connecticut. Come visit us and learn something new!  
 .....

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, April 20, 2019

### TITANIC and "Titanic Joe"

How was Sterling connected to the most famous maritime disaster of all time?

The Sterling Historical Chronicle is published quarterly with issues in March, June, September, and December.

**Next deadline for submissions: February 1, 2019**

Sterling Historical Society Officers:

President: Megan McGory Gleason

Vice President: Arlene Roberts

Secretary: Ruth Battey

Treasurer & Curator: Ron Marchesseault

The Sterling Historical Society is located in Room 19 of the Sterling Municipal Building (the former Sterling Memorial School). Our mailing address is:

Sterling Historical Society

c/o Sterling Town Hall

P.O. Box 157

1183 Plainfield Pike

Oneco, CT 06373

Our meeting schedule is the second Tuesday of every month except December at 7PM unless otherwise announced. Our room is open from 6-8pm on that same second Tuesday, by appointment, and by chance.

Email: [sterlinghistoricalsocietyct@gmail.com](mailto:sterlinghistoricalsocietyct@gmail.com)

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Facebook: <http://facebook.com/SterlingHistoricalSocietyct>

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