

SHS Merchandise

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(2017 reprint, originally published 1976)
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I ♥ Sterling Magnet: \$4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, April 20, 2019

TITANIC and "Titanic Joe"

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

Time TBD

The Sterling Historical Chronicle will be published quarterly.

Our Mission: The purpose of this society shall be to collect and preserve documents, artifacts, buildings, and historic sites relating to the town of Sterling, Connecticut, and to study historical and genealogical subjects relating to the town for the cultural and educational benefit of the town.

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

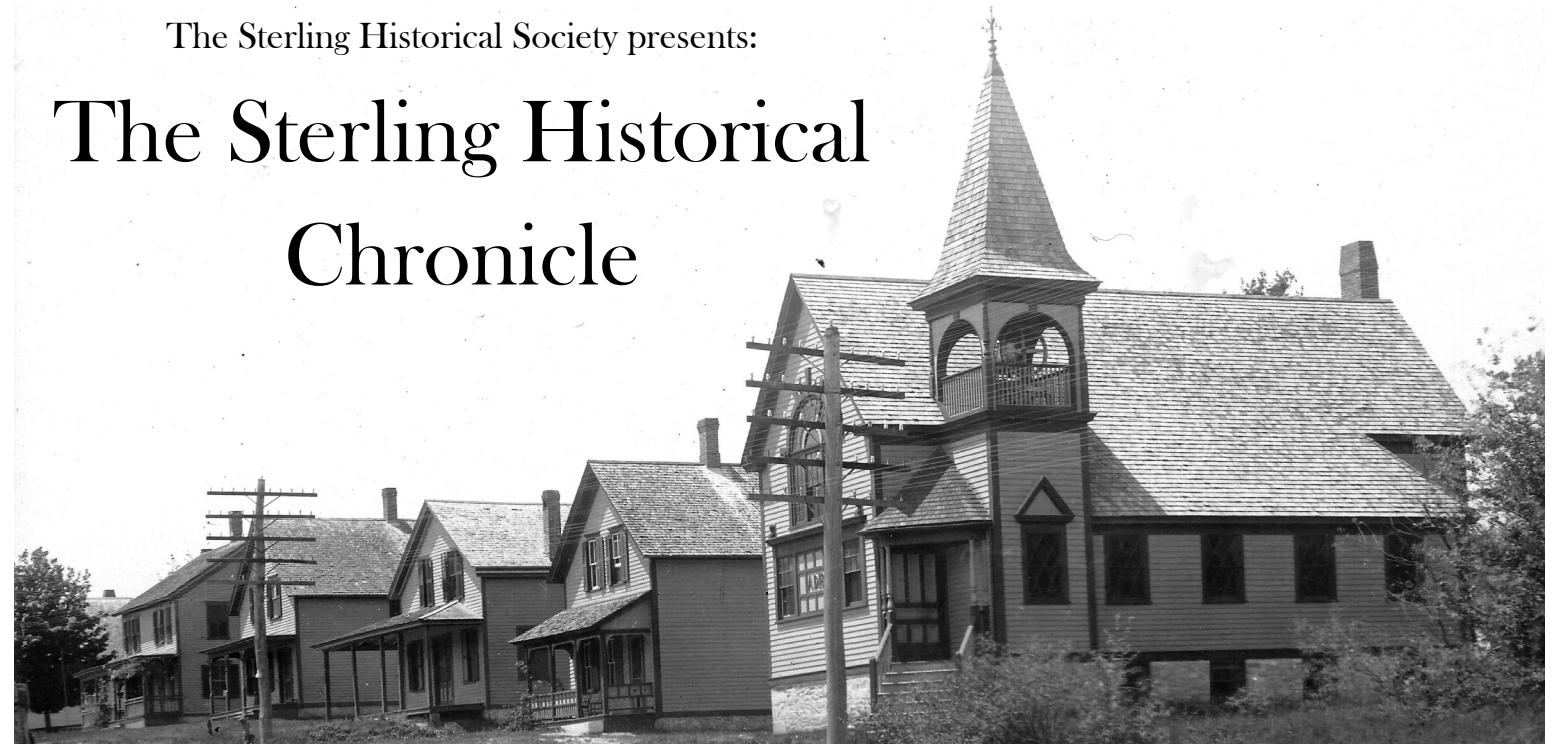
Website: <http://sterlinghistoricalsocietyct.weebly.com>

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

Instagram: @sterlinghistoricalsocietyct

The Sterling Historical Society presents:

The Sterling Historical Chronicle



VOLUME 1

FALL 2018

ISSUE 1

Welcome to our first newsletter!

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our introductory newsletter! The Sterling Historical Society has seen many changes through the years, from being active in fits and starts through the 1970's and 80's to going completely dark through all of the 90's and most of the 00's. It has been ten years since our reinstatement in the fall of 2008 and we find ourselves more busy than ever!

The reprint of Sterling in Retrospect, which we completed last year, was such a success that we are now hard at work on preparing another book for (re)publication. While it was not done in time for this year's Family Day, we have hopes for next year. This newsletter is the most recent accomplishment. We hope to publish it quarterly.

If you take a visit to our room, you will find unique items in our display case, and our archives are constantly a work in progress because new donations are arriving all the time. Most recently, we have received a hand-forged iron harness buckle dug from the grounds of the old Hadfield home, as well as some antique wooden thread shuttles to add to our showcase as a part of our rich textile mill history. We have also received a trove of photographs and papers from the niece of the late original Sterling Historian herself, Ruth Gallup. We will always welcome Sterling related photos, ephemera, and other items!

Read on to learn more about our next presentation on 18th century gravestones, coming up on October 20th.

-Megan McGory Gleason, President

18th Century Funerary Art in our Cemeteries

Upcoming Presentation

While cemeteries are long known to contain a wealth of historical information for genealogists and history buffs, the stones in the ancient cemeteries of Sterling and Voluntown are an asset to early New England folk art.

Riverside Cemetery, also known as “The Plains Cemetery” was established in 1729 when the land was bequeathed to the town for use as a burial ground. With the most burials in town, Riverside also hosts the largest representation of the art of different prolific 18th century gravestone carvers.

Sterling Historical Society president, Megan McGory Gleason, will virtually walk you through the cemeteries and identify the carvers of these stones, shed light on the burial places of early Voluntown founders, and provide clues as to how to identify the stones on your own.

The presentation will also will get into a bit of the early Voluntown/Sterling history, detailing some of the reasons for the towns to split apart, but also as it pertains to the founders of the town and where they are buried today.

Following the presentation, there will be a cemetery walk through Riverside Cemetery, where you can put your sleuthing skills to work and identify who carved the stones yourself.

Come see our cemeteries with new eyes!



IF YOU WANT TO GO:
WHAT: 18th century gravestone carvers of Sterling
WHEN: Saturday, October 20, 2018 10:30AM-1PM
WHERE: Senior Center (SMB), cemetery walk to follow

SHS Cemetery Documentation Project

For the past several years, members of the historical society have been visiting, photographing, and documenting all 28 of the town’s known cemeteries to put into our own database. Some of these cemeteries contain only fieldstones, others contain dozens of burials but are hidden in back yards.

This summer, we visited Sheldon and Pailthorpe Cemeteries, which leaves only Wright and Holloway left on our list. Holloway Cemetery was last seen in the 1970’s and while we know its general location, it continues to elude us.

If you know of any cemeteries deep in the woods, please let us know (whether you think we know about it already or not).

When we visit a cemetery in order to document it, we record the GPS coordinates and photograph it, and early stones (18th century) are noted as well.

When we posted our project on facebook and mentioned that some of the cemeteries we had visited were in need of cleanup and repair, there was a great interest from the community in helping us to obtain that goal.

We are in the early planning stages of hosting our next cemetery cleanup project, slated for next spring. If you would like to help plan this and future cemetery cleanup events, please attend one of our business meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month except December.

HAVE YOU SEEN ME?



This is the only known photograph of the bronze Benadam Gallup monument, last documented in the 1930’s by WPA workers who were documenting the cemeteries in town for the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions. The stone still exists today, but the plaque is long gone.