



The David Humphreys House

The Derby Historical Society

Founded April 18, 1946 to serve the Naugatuck Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, & Shelton

“Celebrating a Proud Past and a Promising Future”

Autumn 2010

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Dear Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce that the Derby Historical Society is launching its ANNUAL FUND RAISING APPEAL to support its programs. The appeal concludes with a light **Thanksgiving reception at Grassy Hill Lodge on Monday, November 22, at 5:00pm.**

Join us at our reception and learn the story of Pierre Lallement. In the 1860's, French mechanic Pierre Lallement, a name that should be familiar to many residents, came to the USA. He moved to the industrial area of Ansonia where he applied for and received the patent for his velocipede, or the bicycle as we know it today. Our guest speaker, David V. Herlihy, cites this accomplishment in his meticulously researched book, *Bicycle: the history*. Mr. Herlihy, an award winning author, also has recently published the book, *The Lost Cyclist*, the story of Frank Lenz, who attempted in 1892 to ride a bicycle around the world.

Your support of the Annual Fund Raising Appeal is critical for the Derby Historical Society to continue its 64-year mission to enrich our historical and cultural heritage. This year, 2010, marks the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the Gen. David Humphreys House to the public as well as the inauguration of the award-winning program “The Day in 1762.” We have expanded our educational programs, including a third grade classroom program called “A Visit from 1759,” high school programs, historical seminars, and other programs relating to the colonial period, including open hearth cooking. Approximately 1,300 students attend the program “The Day in 1762” yearly.

The Society has recently moved its main office and collection processing center to the Sarah Riggs Humphreys house, which is behind the David Humphreys House. The Sarah Riggs Humphreys House had been the home of Lorraine Axon, who was secretary and an active historical society member for many years. The renovation for storage, preservation, and exhibition of our many historical items is ongoing as well as the endeavor to electronically compile on Past Perfect some of our collection to make it more accessible to the public in years ahead. With your help, these and other programs and services can continue.

Please invest in the Society's efforts to preserve our region's history and culture, by making a donation. For each donation of \$40 or more, you will receive one ticket to the Thanksgiving Reception. The options listed on the enclosed envelope can help you decide which funding category would be best for you.

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to seeing you at the Thanksgiving Reception at Grassy Hill Lodge, 77 Sodom Lane, Derby on the 22nd of November!

Sincerely,

John J. Walsh
President

Elaine Brandon
Annual Appeal Co-Chair

Dr. Anita Dugatto
Annual Appeal Co-Chair

Jeremiah Vartelas
Honorary Annual Appeal Chair

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