



RESTORATION  
PROJECTS INC.

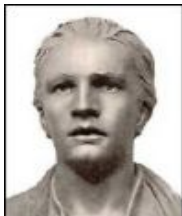
# Fort Nathan Hale BULLETIN

Volume III, Issue I

May, 2008

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Nathan  
Hale

## *A Note from the President*

Bravo! Bravo! Thanks to Rafael Rodriguez and Mary Ann Townley, co chairs of our Spring Fest held recently at Café Botega. The event was a huge success and raised funds for on-going Fort projects. It should be noted that Mary Ann had a serious accident on the way to Botega (where her car was totaled), but was still full of enthusiasm and energy at the event, despite discomfort and pain. Again, thanks to both, and all our supporters for their hard work.

**Opening Day Ceremonies will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.** At this time we will re-dedicate and raise the flags for the new season. We hope you will join us as we show appreciation and recognize the historic organizations who donate regularly to our flag fund. Special thanks to the Society of Cincinnati for their continued generosity.

For the first time in over 20 years we will be presenting a Native American Festival on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. (See flyer on page 3) The event will take place, rain or shine. In addition to Native American music, dancing, story-telling, exhibits and crafts, we are thrilled to have Joseph Firecrow in concert. Mr. Firecrow is a well known, Equity artist who plays the flute. He has appeared in concerts all over the Northeast. We will also have a large official bark Indian wigwam beyond the Draw Bridge, where visitors can get a feel of how the Indian tribes lived.

The Department of Transportation will have a large trailer with an exhibit as will Peabody Museum in the parking lot. Dr. Rankin from Yale University will have an exhibit of items and animals from early American life. Don't miss this exciting event!

Finally, don't miss our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert!

*Marge Ottenbreit* President, FNHRP

## Tribute to a Dedicated Volunteer Nancy Owings June 4, 1930—May 4, 2008

For twenty-two years Nancy served FNHRP as a faithful receptionist at the Pavilion during the summer. She used her experience as a former docent at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC to greet visitors and educate them to the history of the forts that defended the Port of New Haven. She also contributed her time and energy as a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Volunteers.

Nancy graduated from Skidmore College and in 1986 came to live in Branford where she was employed with the Squeri Insurance Agency for a while.

Her friends remember Nancy for her loyalty to FNHRP's mission, her cheerful attitude and wry sense of humor and her love of reading. She always had an interesting book on hand to recommend to others.

Nancy leaves two nieces, daughters of her deceased brother, and her long-time friend Phyllis Monte. Nancy epitomized what a good volunteer should be.

## The Quinnipiac Indians

Have you ever wondered about the Quinnipiac Tribe that lived around the harbor when the English colonists first arrived on April 24, 1638?

Deb (Doris) Townsend has written a book titled Whatever Happened to the Quinnipiacs? That tells of the Indian life before the “foreigners” came and during the English domination when the Quinnipiacs were relegated to a reservation on the east side of the harbor. She uses an imaginary Quinnipiac family through four generations to react to the marauding Pequots and Mohawks, the devastating plague of 1633-34, and the involvement in the conflicts between the English and the Algonquian Tribes.

The Quinnipiacs gradually sold their reservation land to the encroaching East Haven farmers and moved north and west to less inhabited lands.

The book is \$17.95 (tax & mailing inc.) Call 467-1409 for more information.



## Fort Nathan Hale Museum

The Fort Nathan Hale Museum building will be the signature facility of the Fort Nathan Hale complex. Located on Woodward Avenue and adjacent to the two forts that guard the harbor of New Haven, it will be a fitting edifice on that historic ground.

Designed to replicate an historic US Army barracks and administrative building of the 1820’s era, it will be a masonry brick structure consisting of three floors. The first two floors containing exhibit spaces, museum office and museum store, men’s and women’s facilities, lecture rooms and film viewing area. The building will be fully accessible for patrons with disabilities, and have a large military drill hall located on the first floor, available for community and private functions.

The second level is designed for a proposed permanent exhibit space of historical artifacts. A third level is set aside for curatorial uses. It is accessed with a freight-sized elevator to allow for restoration of large artifacts and exhibit design and fabrication. It is envisioned that local colleges and universities as well as students from regional schools will utilize the curatorial resources for history studies and museology courses and projects.

The site will also include a parade ground, tenting space for reenactment groups, and a paved parking area for buses and automobiles. In conjunction with the restoration of the Earthen Fort, the Black Rock Fort, and the development of outdoor enhancements, the Fort Nathan Hale Museum will become a destination location for educational professionals, veteran’s groups, and historians from all over New England and beyond.

This three and a half million dollar structure is designed as a “green” building, and will be a state-of-the-art institution in the Museum system of New Haven, Connecticut. For more information, call 203-946-6970 or visit us on the web: [www.fort-nathan-hale.org](http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org).

Ground breaking activities to be announced soon, stay tuned!



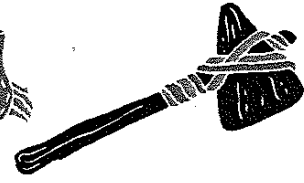
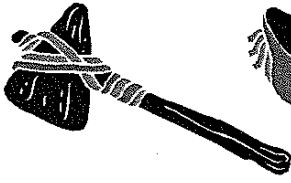
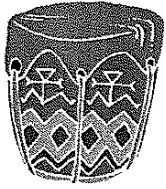
### 4th of July Concert

We are pleased to be presenting a free concert at the Fort on July 4<sup>th</sup> where visitors can view the fireworks in the New Haven harbor immediately after.

Well known musician, Jim Lawson and his band will perform a medley of patriotic and popular music at 6:30 p.m. at the Pavilion. (Gates will be closed at 7:00 p.m.) Visitors should bring their own chairs or blankets, as well as flashlights.



Special thanks to all those submitting articles for this publication.



*Fort Nathan Hale  
Restoration Projects, Inc.*

*Presents  
Native American Culture  
and Festival '08*

*Saturday*

*June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

*10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

*Sunday*

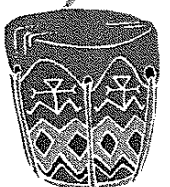
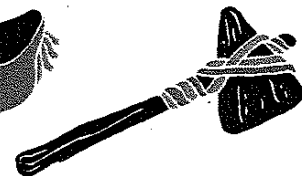
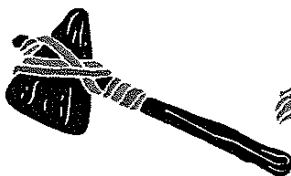
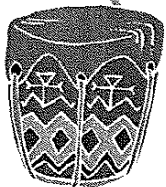
*June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

*11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

- Peabody Museum Anthropology Traveling Exposition
- Peggy LaConte Storytelling
- Hammonasset Traveling Nature Center
- Reptiles and Wild Animals
- Hope Johnson's Birds of Prey
- Joseph Firecrow Concert
- Indian Dancers & Drumming

*Fort Nathan Hale Park*

*Woodward Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06513  
[info@fort-nathan-hale.org](mailto:info@fort-nathan-hale.org)*



**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org>



While some of us are having trouble joining the age of technology, the fact remains that it is here now.

Many people have asked if we couldn't Email our newsletters to them. Since postage, updating and printing have become more time consuming and expensive, we are embracing that idea.

If you would like to receive our newsletter via Email, please send us your name and Email address.

Our Email address is:  
[Info@fort-nathan-hale.org](mailto:Info@fort-nathan-hale.org).

## *Civil War Roundtable*

The Civil War Roundtable will meet on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Miller Library in Hamden. Featured speaker, Edward Bonekemper III, will talk on Civil War leader "McCellan – Lincoln's Worst Nightmare".

Their annual dinner meeting will take place on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of St. Patrick Clubrooms on State Street in New Haven, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Keynote speaker will be Jeffrey I. Richman whose topic is "Final Camping Grounds – Civil War Veterans at Brooklyn's Greenwood Cemetery", in their own words taken from letters and documents of the 3000 veterans buried there. Cost is \$30.00 and must be in by June 2 to John Boyle, PO Box 6028, Whitneyville, CT. 06517.

## *Garden Club Grant*



The Morris Cove Garden Club has received a grant from the Walmart Foundation to plant a new landscape design at the Memorial Flag Court. This spot poses unique problems with landscaping and flowers because salt water comes up every four or five years and covers the entire area, damaging or destroying the plant life. The Garden Club, under the direction of Lynne Pastore who wrote the grant, is optimistic

## *Volunteer Efforts*

Now that winter has finally passed, we are all looking forward to starting our summer season at The Fort. As Volunteer Coordinator, my job is to schedule volunteers to staff the Information Booth / Gift Shop for the summer. We are open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and half a day on Sundays. Volunteers are asked to work one three-hour shift on a day of their choice.

Last years workers keep saying what a great experience it was for them to meet so many people from so many places. Our web site keeps bringing us people from far away places. We had visitors from 53 Connecticut towns, 29 states and 7 countries. We will be open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

If you would like to do something different this summer, call me at: 203-469-1125. Looking forward to seeing more new volunteers this season.

*-Tina Doyle,*  
Volunteer Coordinator

Marge Ottenbreit  
84 Fort Hale Road  
New Haven, CT 06512-3603

<http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org>