

For Immediate Release

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Locally Grown History Program Promotes History, Agriculture

It's all in the stories and the places they happened. History and local activity fans are on a History Hunt this fall, through October 18 and 19, to meet the challenge to visit the more than 40 Locally Grown History (LGH) sites across the greater Litchfield Hills region.

The Hunt launched over Labor Day weekend. "Visitors attending our Borough Days event this year received copies of Locally Grown History maps and passports." According to Linda Loveday, Museum Educator at the Litchfield Historical Society, "One mom said she had seen the notices about the initiative and was really looking forward to doing the hunt with her children."

Here's a sample of what's happening this week (September 20 to 28):

- Connecticut Antique Machinery Association Fall Festival (September 26-28), Route 7, Kent. Early steam engines, tractors and mining museum. 860 653-4534.
- Merwinsville Hotel Restoration Tours (through end of September). Gaylordsville on Sundays 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. An 1843 railroad hotel. Call 860 350-4443
- Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Walks September 20 and 21. Interesting historic, cultural and natural sites of all kinds. 860 435-9505.
- "Our Sister loves an Indian!" Readings by Sam Waterston and Blair Brown of the Harriet Gold correspondence. At 3:00 p.m., Sunday, September 21, at the Cornwall Consolidated School, Route 128 & Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall. 860-672-6191.

For an up-to-date listing of participating sites visit www.locallygrownhistory.com.

Locally Grown History celebrates the wealth of treasures to be found in the history and tradition of our region. Whether it's antique machinery, quilts, genealogy, small historical societies or local farms, participants will find something to intrigue them through the fall season. Most sites charge as little as \$5.00 admission or nothing at all.

Ms. Loveday noted that "Guides at our museum reported that families visiting our site on Sunday enjoyed the opportunity to play historic games and that they were going to try to get one more stamp on their passport that afternoon."

LGH grew from the collaboration of many area historic sites and museums, farms, wineries and the Torrington campus of UCONN. A History Hunt encourages visitors to

“collect” sites by having a passport stamped at participating sites. Those who collect 10 stickers will be eligible for a prize drawing. Check the website for available prizes.

The History Hunt will conclude on Harvest Weekend (October 18 and 19). On Saturday October 18 many participating historic sites will offer special events ranging from lectures to walking tours.

UCONN will host a forum, “Locally Grown Stories: Context and Connection” on Sunday, October 19, at 1:00 p.m. at the UCONN Torrington campus. A galaxy of star presenters includes State Archeologist Nick Bellantoni, State Historian Walt Woodward and the Director of Historic New England and President of the American Association of Museums, Carl Nold. Sessions include “The Power of Geography in Connecticut;” “Religion’s Role and Impact on CT History;” “Immigration in CT;” and “Stories Told Through Letters.” A special offering for history and humanities teachers will be “Teaching with Local Treasures; The World in Your Backyard.” For registration information and additional details, visit www.locallygrownhistory.org

Locally Grown History is a project organized by historical societies and museums throughout Northwest Connecticut, along with UCONN Torrington, the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council, and the Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Locally Grown History aims to serve a 48 town region that includes Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Barkhamsted, Bethel, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Bristol, Brookfield, Burlington, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Danbury, Derby, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Naugatuck, Newtown, Norfolk, North Canaan, Oxford, Plymouth, Prospect, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Seymour, Sherman, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Waterbury, Warren, Washington, Watertown, Winchester, Wolcott, and Woodbury.