



Connecticut  
Landmarks

NEWS

**Connecticut Landmarks**

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## Hearth Cooking Classes at the Hempsted Houses



**New London, CT** - Connecticut Landmarks' Hempsted Houses will offer two Hearth Cooking Programs this fall, featuring the interpretation and preparation of a seasonal colonial meal cooked over an open hearth using traditional 18<sup>th</sup>-century methods. On Saturday, September, 18<sup>th</sup>, *Hempsted Harvest, Apples & Corn* will teach participants how to press cider, make cornbread, and churn butter. Guests will learn how to prepare food on the open hearth, and then eat a hearty meal which will include corn chowder and apple pie.

Then on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, *Bounty of the Harvest, A Time of Plenty* will instruct participants on how to prepare a full farmhouse meal, from soup to dessert, while teaching students to use a reflector oven, make sausage and bake using a Dutch oven. Recipes will utilize foods and cooking methods familiar to the Hempsted family and include the wonderful bounty of a farm harvest. Both classes run from 1 to 5 pm and are \$60 each or \$50 each for Connecticut Landmarks members. Registration is required as space is limited, please call (860) 443-7949 to register.

The Hempsted Houses are located at 11 Hempstead Street in New London and will be open for regular tours from May 29<sup>th</sup> - October 10<sup>th</sup>. September and October hours are: Saturday & Sunday from 1 – 4 pm. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$6 for students, teachers, and seniors; \$4 for children age 6-18; children under 6 and Connecticut Landmarks members are free. Families (2 adults with unlimited children) are \$15, groups of 10 or more are \$5 each. For school groups and special curriculum-based programming, or to reserve tours for groups of 10 or more, please contact the education department at (860)247-8996 x 14. For groups of 10 or more, please call the Hempsted Houses at (860) 443-7949.

### **About The Hempsted Houses**

The 1678 Joshua Hempsted House in New London is one of New England's oldest and most well documented dwellings. Adjacent to the Joshua Hempsted House is a rare stone house built in 1759 by Nathaniel Hempsted. Both structures survived the 1781 burning of New London and stand today as testaments of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century daily life. The Hempsted Houses are open from May to October for drop-in visitation and offer youth-based and public programs.

Joshua Hempsted the second was born in 1678 in the house that bears his name. From 1711 until his death in 1758, Joshua kept a diary, which today is one of the best sources about life in colonial New London. Joshua's diary provides hundreds of pages of valuable information, as well as his insight about early New London people and activities, including the life of enslaved African-American, Adam Jackson. Tours of the Joshua Hempsted House bring to life this diary, engaging visitors with Joshua's struggle to provide for his family and juggle his many responsibilities.

The stone Nathaniel Hempsted House was constructed for Joshua's grandson Nathaniel Hempsted. He was a merchant and one of three rope makers in maritime New London.

### **About Connecticut Landmarks**

Founded in 1936 as the *Antiquarian & Landmarks Society*, Connecticut Landmarks is the largest state-wide heritage museum organization in Connecticut. The historic, landmark properties span four centuries of Connecticut history and include: the Amasa Day House, Moodus; the Amos Bull House, Hartford; the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, Bethlehem; the Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center, Hartford; the Buttolph-Williams House, Wethersfield; the Hempsted Houses, New London; the Isham-Terry House, Hartford; the Nathan Hale Homestead, Coventry; the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, Suffield.

Connecticut Landmarks' mission is to inspire interest and encourage learning about the American past by preserving selected historic properties, collections and stories and presenting programs that meaningfully engage the public and our communities. For more information, please visit [www.ctlandmarks.org](http://www.ctlandmarks.org).

Photos: The Hempsted Houses in New London. Photo by Nick Lacy, courtesy of Connecticut Landmarks.  
Hempsted Hearth Cooking. Photo by Nick Lacy, courtesy of Connecticut Landmarks.

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