



Connecticut
Landmarks

NEWS

Connecticut Landmarks

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Attention Calendar Editors: A standard and ongoing calendar listings for History Museums / Attractions and detailed event listings are located at the end of this release. Thank you!

Nathan Hale Homestead Opens for the 2009 Season

Programs and Events Feature the Coventry Farmers Market, Family Activities, Walking Tours, Garden and Craft classes, & Thunder in the Valley

Coventry, CT – Connecticut Landmarks' Nathan Hale Homestead will open for the season on Saturday May 23 and will remain open through October 31. In addition to regular tours, the museum will feature a season of programming and events that include: the Annual Colonial Encampment and Musical Muster, Happy Birthday Nathan Hale, walking tours, concerts, hearth cooking classes, gardening workshops with the CT chapter of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (CT NOFA), free family activities and the annual corn maze. In addition, the Homestead will again be home to the Coventry Farmers Market every Sunday from 11 – 2 pm beginning on June 7 through October 25. For a complete list of events and activities please visit www.ctlandmarks.org.

The Nathan Hale Homestead is located at 2299 South Street in Coventry, CT 06238. The Homestead is open for regular tours Memorial Day weekend (May 23) through October 31. May: Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 4 pm; June/August: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am to 4 pm; September/October: Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 4 pm. Open Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$6 for students, teachers and seniors; \$4 for children age 6-18; children under 6 and CTL members are free. Families - 2 adults with children - are \$15; groups of 10 or more are \$5 each. For school groups and special

curriculum-based programming, please call Beverly York, Site Administrator, at 860.742.6917, or email, hale@ctlandmarks.org.

The Coventry Farmer's Market will open on Sunday, June 7th on the grounds of the Homestead and will run every Sunday from 11 am to 2 pm through October 25. Fresh, organic, heirloom and ethnic foods from local farms mingle with the works and wares of local artisans and the very best of Connecticut history to make this market “*one of the top-ten things to do in New England this weekend*” – Boston Globe. On select Sundays the Homestead will feature **Free Family Activities**, at Noon in the schoolhouse, ranging from cheese and butter making demonstrations, a family puppet show, scarecrow making, and cider pressing.

Garden and craft classes will be offered on Sundays throughout the season at the Homestead. Connecticut Landmarks has partnered with the Connecticut chapter of the New England Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) and will offer a *History of Gardening* class on July 5 at 1 pm, and *Vegetable and Flower Pruning* on August 9th at 1 pm. The classes will be taught by NOFA instructor Bettylou Sandy, the owner of Bettylou's Gardening in Manchester and a NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional (AOLCP) focusing on gardening education. Garden classes are \$15 each and will meet in the kitchen herb garden.

Craft classes include: *basket weaving*, June 28; *candle dipping*, July 26; *Herbs for Hearth and Health*, August 30; rug making, September 20; crafting *corn husk dolls*, October 11. Craft classes range from \$2 to \$20 and will be held in the schoolhouse yard. Class registration will take place at the Connecticut Landmarks' visitors tent beginning at 10 am each Sunday. Participants are encouraged to register early as space is limited. Register in advance by phone, 860.742.6917, or email hale@ctlandmarks.org.

Also on Sundays a 4-part **History Talks at the Homestead Lecture Series** will begin on July 19th. The lectures take place at 1 pm in the visitor's center and are \$5 each. They are: *Hale at Yale* including a scene from the play *Cato*, July 19; *Architecture Tour of the Homestead*, August 2; *Spies of the Revolution*, September 27; *The Homestead Ghosts: Unexplained Occurrences at the Homestead* October 25th.

On Sunday, June 21, at Noon, the Homestead will host the First Annual Father's Day Checkers Tournament. Registration will take place the day of the tournament, at the Visitor's Center, and is \$4 per player.

The Nathan Hale Homestead will host the **22nd Annual Colonial Encampment and Musical Muster** on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26 from 10 am to 4 pm. The camp will open to the public on Saturday at 10 am with battle reenactments at 11 am and 3 pm. Camp cooking, tours of the first floor of the Homestead, musical performances, and activities and games for kids will be ongoing throughout the day. On Sunday, re-enactors will demonstrate colonial and Revolutionary War military life with activities that include spinning, drilling, and hearth cooking. In the afternoon, the Nathan Hale Fife and Drum Corp will present its annual Musical Muster highlighting several organizations performing traditional 18th-century music echoing the truly American and stirring sounds of fifes and drums. Admission on Saturday is \$5 for adults; kids and costumed re-enactors are free. Admission on Sunday from 10 am to Noon is \$5 and free for the Muster after 12 pm.

The Homestead will present the **Sunday Concert Series** beginning Sunday, August 16 with **Hugh Blumenfeld**, a former Connecticut State Troubadour; **The Electric Trains Band** on September 6; and **Gino LoRiccio and Dan Dufresne** on October 4. The concerts begin at 1 pm in the visitor's center. A \$10 donation is kindly requested.

About the Nathan Hale Homestead

The Hale Homestead is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the birthplace of Connecticut's State Hero, Nathan Hale. The house, built in 1776, belonged to Nathan Hale's parents and family, and is located on the only site he ever called home. Nathan was one of twelve children born to Richard and Elizabeth Hale.

Hale served as a Yale-educated school teacher and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Continental Army in 1775. A year later he volunteered to go behind British lines on Long Island to gather military intelligence desperately needed by General George Washington, but the British captured Hale and, when they discovered he was a spy, hanged him. He was 21. He is famous for his alleged last words, "*I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.*"

In 1776 Hale's father, Deacon Richard Hale built the new home on the family homestead which has changed little since. It's situated on 17 acres, adjoining the 1500-acre Nathan Hale State Forest. Its furnishings include several Hale family possessions and other collections amassed by pioneer Connecticut antiquarian George Dudley Seymour, who purchased the homestead in 1914 and began a program of restoration and furnishing that is largely preserved today.

About Connecticut Landmarks

Founded in 1936 as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, Connecticut Landmarks is the largest statewide 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 Landmark's mission is to inspire appreciation for the Connecticut experience by preserving, presenting and promoting outstanding historic properties, collections and stories. For more information, please visit www.ctlandmarks.org.

Standard and Ongoing Calendar Listing for the Hale Homestead

Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South St. Coventry - A Connecticut Landmark. Nathan Hale, Connecticut's state hero, was born and spent most of his short life on this 400-acre farm. Open for tours on May 23 through October 31. May: Sat & Sun 11 am – 4 pm; June/August: Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 11 am – 4 pm; September/October: Sat & Sun 11 am – 4 pm. Open on Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day, 11 am – 4 pm. Admission \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, teachers and seniors, \$4 for children age 6 - 18, free for members and children under 6. Special family price of \$15. For school groups and special curriculum-based programming, please contact the education department at 860.247.8996 x11. To reserve tours for groups of 10 or more, please call Beverly York, Site Administrator, at 860.742.6917, or email, hale@ctlandmarks.org.

Nathan Hale Homestead 2009 Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 17, 2-3:30pm

Free Walking Tour: Source to Sea: Farm Surplus to the Ships

Enjoy a tour down the farm path that served as the main road to the Norwich docks and learn about the farm market trade of eastern Connecticut, with a specific look at the Hale family.

Open Sundays, June 7-October 25, 11am-2pm

Coventry Regional Farmers' Market

Sunday, June 7, Noon, Schoolhouse Yard

Free Family Activity: Planting "three sisters" seeds.

Saturday, June 13

Happy Birthday Nathan Hale / CT Open House Day

Free Special Activity: A Stitch in Time, Noon, Homestead Kitchen

The Hale Homestead will combine CT Open House Day with a celebration of Nathan Hale's 254th birthday from 11am-2pm, which will feature activities for children and FREE CAKE!

As a participating venue in Connecticut's statewide Open House Day, the Hale Homestead will offer free admission to all state residents. Sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, Open House Day encourages Connecticut's residents to take an active interest in the state's history, art, film, culture, and tourism. *A Stitch in Time* will explore wool and flax textile production and 18th-century laundry including soap making, spinning, dyeing, weaving and a hike to the flax-retting pond. Free.

Sunday, June 21, Noon, Garden Lot

Father's Day Checker Tournament

Challenge Dad, Grandpa or a favorite man in your life to a friendly game (or not!) of checkers. \$4 per player.

Sunday, June 14, 11 -2

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides

Admission TBD.

Sunday, June 28, Noon, Schoolhouse Yard

Free Family Activity: Cheese and Butter Making,

Sunday, June 28, 1 pm

Craft Class: Baskets

\$20

Sunday, July 5, Noon, Schoolhouse Yard

Free Family Activity: Puppet Show! Make Patriot Puppets

Sunday, July 5, 1 pm

CT NOFA Garden Class: History of Gardening in CT

Class taught by NOFA instructor Bettylou Sandy, owner of Bettylou's Gardening in Manchester and NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional (AOLCP) focusing on Gardening Education. \$15. Class registration will take place at the Connecticut Landmarks visitor's tent

beginning at 10 am each Sunday. Participants are encouraged to register early as space is limited. Register in advance by phone, 860.742.6917, or email hale@ctlandmarks.org.

Sunday, July 19, 1 pm

History Talks at the Homestead: Hale at Yale

Includes a scene from the play *Cato*. \$5.

Monday, July 20-Friday, July 24, 10am-3pm

Colonial Adventure for Kids

\$150 per child, registration required.

Travel back to the 18th century for a week of summer fun and exploration. Children ages 8-12 will enjoy scenic walks and visits to local landmarks, as well as recreating everyday life on the Hale farm. Register by phone, 860.742,6917 or email, hale@ctlandmarks.org.

Saturday and Sunday, July 25-26

Colonial Encampment & Musical Muster

Saturday, Adults \$5, Children and costumed re-enactors Free

Sunday, \$5 from 10 am to Noon. Free thereafter.

Saturday: Battles at 11am and 3pm

Sunday: Battle at 11am, Fife & Drum Muster at 12pm.

Step back in time to a real Revolutionary War battle as the Nathan Hale Fife & Drum Corps join other reenactment groups as they recreate the daily life of Revolutionary War soldiers.

Demonstrations include drilling, musket and cannon firing, and camp cooking. The day will be complete with musical performances, house tours, and ongoing kids' activities. Refreshments will also be for sale.

Sunday, July 26, 1 pm, Schoolhouse Yard

Craft Class: Candle Dipping

\$2

Sunday, August 2, 1 pm, Visitor's Center

History Talks at the Homestead: Architecture Tour

\$5

Sunday, August 9, 1 pm

CT NOFA Garden Class: Pruning for Better Yield and Fall Crops

Class taught by NOFA instructor Bettylou Sandy, owner of Bettylou's Gardening in Manchester and a NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional (AOLCP) focusing on Gardening Education. \$15. Class registration will take place at the Connecticut Landmarks' visitors tent beginning at 10 am each Sunday. Participants are encouraged to register early as space is limited. Register in advance by phone, 860.742.6917, or email hale@ctlandmarks.org.

Saturday August 15- Mid October

Annual Corn Maze

Open during regular museum hours

\$5 / \$15 for families (2 adults and any number of children)

Wind your way through American history and a full acre of twists, turns, and dead ends as you adventure through our educational corn maze.

Sunday, August 16, 1 pm, Visitor's Center

Concerts at the Homestead

Hugh Blumenfeld, former Connecticut State Troubadour, is a master songwriter presenting songs of history, heritage, humor and the heart. Blumenfeld has been called "a songwriter's songwriter," ranging from romantic ballads to biting satire. A \$10 donation is kindly requested.

Sunday, August 23, Noon, Garden Lot

Free Family Activity: Make a Scarecrow

Sunday, August 30, 1 pm, Homestead Herb Garden

Garden Class: Herbs for Hearth and Health

\$15

Sunday, September 6; 1 pm

Concerts at the Homestead

The Electric Trains Band featuring Jack Collins, Duke York, and Jim Romanow present an eclectic repertoire that includes all kinds of train and transportation songs (trucks, busses, horses/mules, stockcars, and flying saucers) ranging from folk, blues, rock, and country styles. An infectious mix of good time roots music. A \$10 donation is kindly requested.

Sunday, September 13, 11-3, Homestead Kitchen

Celebrating Grandparents Day: Silhouettes cut, \$15 each, reservations required.

Sunday, September 20, 11- 3:30

Craft Workshop: Heirloom Wool Rugs with Rose Ann Hunter

The class will cover several techniques including yarn sewing, knotting, shirring, and penny rug appliqué wool on wool. A small canvas will be provided with wool yarns, fabrics and sewing needles. This three-hour class will produce a small mat and enough skills to go on to making a larger rug. Please bring a pair of scissors. Registration is required. Call 860.742.6917, or email hale@ctlandmarks.org. \$35/class, \$5/kit.

Rose Anne Hunter has been a textile structuralist for more than 30 years. She was chosen in 2005 as Craft Person in Residence at Old Sturbridge Village in Traditional Rug Making, 1790 to 1850. She has adapted and developed more than 30 historic rug-making techniques by recycling fabrics and yarns that are knitted, crocheted or sewn into folk art. For more information please visit www.roseannhunter.com.

Sunday, September 27, Noon, Schoolhouse

Free Family Activity: Writing with Quill Pens & Decoding Spy Letters

Sunday, September 27, 1 pm, Visitor's Center

History Talks at the Homestead: Spies of the Revolution

\$5.

Friday and Saturday, October 2-3, 7-9 pm

Haunted Corn Maze

\$8 / \$25 for families (2 adults and any number of children)

Watch out for spooky surprises around every corner! Bring your flashlights and leave your scaredy-pants at home as our maze is taken over by things that go bump in the night! Not recommended for small children.

Sunday, October 4, 1 pm

Concerts at the Homestead

Gino LoRiccio and Dan Dufresne. A \$10 donation is kindly requested.

October 10, 12, 17, 1 pm

Walktober

Free

The 19th annual walking, strolling, paddling, biking and hiking celebration of The Last Green Valley – All October long!

October 10: Reading the Landscape

Bring the whole family to explore the fields and forests surrounding the Hale Homestead on this nature walk. Connecticut Landmarks staff member, Kay O’Crowley will led the group on a discussion of the evolution of the landscape since 1776 and the Hale family’s many sacrifices for the Patriot cause. Refreshments will be available.

October 12: In the Footsteps of the Hale Children

Children ages 6 and up are invited to experience a day-in-the-life of their 18th-century counterparts as they participate in their chores, school, and leisure activities.

October 17: Secrets in Stone

Departing from the Nathan Hale Cemetery on Lake Street, Connecticut Landmarks staff member Linda Pagliuco will lead this leisurely tour of the burial ground’s most significant headstones, including its oldest grave (1716) to its most famous, the Nathan Hale Monument.

Sunday, October 11, 1 pm, Schoolhouse

Craft Class: Corn Husk Dolls

\$10

Sunday, October 18, Noon, Schoolhouse Yard

Free Family Activity: Cider Making

Saturday, October 24, 12 -4 pm

Hale & Hearty Hearth Cooking

\$60/ \$50 for CTL members

Learn how food was preserved and prepared on an 18th century farm. Cook a hearty soup, roast meat in the reflector oven, bake a dessert, and churn butter just like members of the Hale family would have over 200 years ago. Reservations are required.

Sunday, October 25, 1 pm, Homestead Kitchen

History Talks at the Homestead: The Homestead Ghosts - Unexplained Occurrences at the Homestead

\$5

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