



Waterford Historical Society, Inc.
2026 Programs open to the public
“We, the people . . . “

Please note: Member meetings and Second Saturdays have yet to be scheduled for 2026. For all programs, please check the Society's website and Facebook page for the latest updates.

Website: waterfordhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordHistorySocietyCT>

Email: waterfordhistoricalsociety@gmail.com Telephone: 860-608-1904

February 28 - “General Putnam” Reenactment

2 PM

At the Waterford Public Library

In collaboration with the Waterford Public Library, retired UCONN Prof. Kenneth Noll will give a dramatic presentation about the colonial figure of General Putnam.

Early March - “We, the Maple Sugar Harvesters...”

Local field trip

During this field trip, David Lersch will demonstrate how settlers and people today have harvested sugar from maple trees in Waterford. Register in advance via email.

March 30 - “We, the Maple Sugar Harvesters...”

6:30 PM social, 7 PM program.

At the Waterford Public Library

David Lersch will discuss the long-standing method of creating maple syrup, with a short video presentation.

April 15 - Sept. 15

“We, the Artists... celebrate America's 250th year!”

ART IN WATERFORD 2026

Our juried art show winners will exhibit their artwork in the main corridor of Waterford Town Hall from April to September. Artwork may be purchased but must remain in Town Hall until the end of the show. In early 2026, veterans’ artwork will be displayed. In the final months of 2026 Waterford’s students will display their artwork.

May 23 - Mary Goddard Reenactment

2 PM

Co-sponsored with the Waterford Public Library.

Rita Parisi will present “Mary Goddard” reenactments on Jordan Green and on the Waterford Public Library property. Goddard herself printed certain aspects of the original Declaration of Independence.

May 18-21 - Field trips to Jordan Green for Elementary Students

Waterford’s 3rd and 5th grade students will experience various aspects of colonial life through reenactments and participatory activities at several sites on Jordan Green.

June 8 - “We, the Farmers...”

6:30 PM social, 7 PM program.

At the Waterford Public Library

Our town of Waterford was called the “West Farms” of New London until 1801. A discussion with descendants of our town’s farming families, including Ray Dimmock and Daneen Roth. The Dimmock family for decades had the right to harvest seaweed at Hammond beach, now Waterford Beach Park.

Late July - “We, the Hay Harvesters...”

During this field trip, Tim Conderino will demonstrate techniques that farmers have employed for centuries to harvest hay for their livestock and other purposes, while showing contemporary methods for harvesting. Register in advance via email.

August 3 - “We, the Hay Harvesters...”

6:30 PM social, 7 PM program.

At the Waterford Public Library

Tim Conderino and others will discuss traditions for harvesting hay over the centuries here in Waterford and explain the purposes which hay still serves.

September 14 - “We the Fishermen...”

6:30 PM social, 7 PM program.

At the Waterford Public Library

Local fishermen will share how fishing boats have evolved over the centuries and which fish are harvested in Long Island Sound.

October 5 - “We, the Family Gardeners...”

6:30 PM social, 7 PM program.

At the Waterford Public Library.

People once grew “kitchen gardens” near their houses, so that women could tend and harvest fruits, herbs, and vegetables, and preserve fruits and vegetables for the winter months by drying (dehydrating), placing prepared food in Ball jars, and/or placing food in ice cellars. Presented by Thames River Garden Club members Sheila Elliott, Phyllis Cushing and Joanne Malahias.

November 7 - “Harvest to Hearth in 1850’s Waterford”

11 AM – 2 PM on Jordan Green

The Dirty Blue Shirts living historians will be in and around Jordan Green's historic buildings on Rope Ferry Road to focus on the Thanksgiving holiday. What did Thanksgiving mean for our mid-19th-century Waterford ancestors? Food, family, gratitude for what they had, remembering those who were gone, and charity baskets for those who had less. See hearth cooking and cidermaking. This wonderful annual program on Jordan Green celebrates the benefits of the harvest season!

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