

More of the Best of the Valley

January 22, 2021

# The Valley-Voice newsletter marks 5th anniversary

## By Ralph Villers

Given the volatile climate we seem unable to escape these days, we're often inundated with the worst of the world.

The media is awash in bad things such as pandemics and bitter politics.

But what of the Lower Naugatuck Valley? We might not want to dwell so long in the wider world and by doing that miss events closer to home.

There certainly is more to see in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton than the usual bad news. We offer the Valley-Voice CT e-publications as an antidote.

Our <u>Valley-Voice Newsletter</u> celebrates its fifth birthday today. From our first edition (click image to view), the features, notices and advances have remained informative. Likewise, photos, layout and have allowed for a stylish easy to read publication.

Also, the *Valley-Voice Blog* has been published since September 2014 with over 10,000 informative posts highlighting our dynamic Valley.

In both the newsletter and blog, we look for features and subjects you might not have considered.

We avoid hard news and politics in every article and posting.

There are seemingly thousands of places you can go to read about those subjects.

The Valley-Voice covers neither!

We thank our many loyal readers for their views and shares. We appreciate it!

We love residing in the Valley and writing about the dynamic people, places, and organizations that call this area home.



#### **Derby Historical Society Issue**

DHS Receives Grants for Humphreys House Restoration from Persbacker and Valley

Community Foundations
at year, the Derby Historical Society received a \$20,000 grant from the New Milford
ed Persbacker Family Foundation toward the restoration project at the General David
upphreys House & Museum at 37 Em Street in Ansonia.
s generous grant was a great impact. The street is a first of the street of the st

This generous grant was a great impetus for the campaign for the extensive work required.

r incentive to get donors and the public involved, the Persbacker Family has also given the DHS an opportunity to receive an additional \$30,000 in unds.

oward that end, DHS is in discussions for a major fundraising event in April. This and very event will help to benefit the restoration.

The Derby Historical Society has also been awarded a multi-year Capacity Building Grant from the Valley Community Foundation, to assist with the costs associated with the Restoration Project. The grant, totaling \$50 be paid over the not after beyon.

Contact DHS Executive Director Paula Norton with any suggestions for this and other fundraising events at:

(203) 735-1908 or paula@derbyhistorical.org

### Who was David Humphreys of Derby?

an individual, and that is David Humphreys.

He was born in Derby, the son of the Rev. Daniel Humphreys and Sarah Riggs Bowers Humphreys, the owners of the present day house and museum. He received his Masters degree in 1774 from Yale and was a teacher until 1776.

He enlisted in the 2nd Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Army in July of 1776.

Humphrey was part of the successful battle at Sag Harbor, NY, and due to this, Humphreys was promoted to the rank of Major. After being an advisor to two American generals, he was appointed aid-el-camp of General George Washington in 1780.

There are even more impressive factoids abut Humphreys life aside from the Continental Army:

- de from the Continental Army:
  He was a member of the State's General Assembly.
  He was named U.S. Minister to Portugal, and later, Spain.
  He introduced the Merino breed of sheep and its fine quality
  wool the state and country.
  He built the first successful wool mill factory in the U.S.
  He owned a factory in Seymour that produced iron tools
- short, Humphreys was an important person in the development the Lower Naugatuck Valley as well as the Nation.



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### David Humphreys House Restoration Continues

The Derby Historical Society continues the restoration of the exterior General David Humphreys House & Museum in

The extensive project is set to be completed in 2018. Estimated at \$200,000 the project involves the removal of the existing siding for the repair of deteriorated sills and framing and to address moisture infiltration issues.

The current exterior consists of a mixture of older pine and modern cedar. The trim is a mixture of older oak casings and comer boards repaired with pine.

As always, the restoration will be sensitive to the original architectural details of the 1692 house while allowing for modern construction and materials practices.





The E-Street Gallery Visit us to shop and view ou local artists
The Valley Arts Council
35 Elizabeth Street • Derby

Take a look at a sampling of our newsletter throughout this issue. Click on any (or every) issue to see more of the best of the Valley!

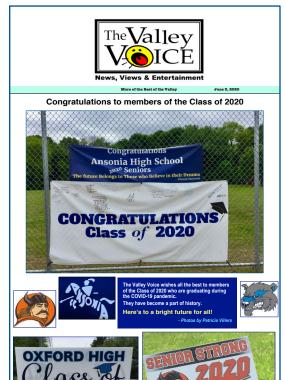




May 7, 2019

June 3, 2020





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May 15, 2017





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July 12, 2018







Dec. 22, 2016 Oct. 4, 2017 Oct. 1, 2019