



OCTOBER 15, 2011

11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

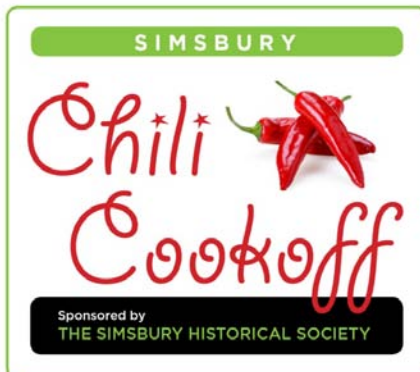
The Simsbury Historical Society is celebrating our 100th year!

What better way to celebrate than with a big birthday party...and *everyone's* invited for great day of family-friendly history, food, fun!

Plan to spend the day with us, because there's so much to do, see, listen to, learn and enjoy. Scroll down to read all about the great things we've got in store for you!

Admission to the Centennial Celebration is **FREE!**
(*Raindate: October 16, 2011*)

CHILI COOK-OFF



As part of the Centennial Celebration, the First Annual Simsbury Chili Cook-off will be held between the participating Simsbury restaurants for bragging rights to the "Best Chili in Simsbury." For \$5.00 per person you can sample the chili from each participant and vote on your favorite for the People's Choice award. The Cook-off is scheduled from Noon to 2 p.m.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENTS

A schedule and a map will be available at the entrances to the Historical Society grounds.

STEP BACK IN TIME



A bounty on muskrats...Arguments whether Simsbury should be friendly to “outsiders”...Burned apple pies and a spoiled tavern-owner’s daughter – it’s all here! Docents will guide visitors back into the 17th and 19th centuries in the Meetinghouse and Phelps Tavern as our actors present four interpretative skits about Simsbury’s history.

❖ *“Why Should Simsbury Ease Scotland’s Burden?!”*

The Freemen of Simsbury debate whether to help men from Scotland (Bloomfield) with travel. Audience participation is a must! (*Meetinghouse*)

❖ *“Canals, Cows and Muskrats”*

Canal boat captains and tavern-goers discuss problems on the canal in Weatogue, including floating cows, angry farmers and pesky muskrats. (*Phelps Tavern*)

❖ *“Good Gossip Isn’t Hard to Find”*

In the Tavern’s parlor, ladies discuss canal travel and, of course, enjoy some Simsbury gossip

❖ *“Fanny Rosanna Helps Herself”*

The Phelps Tavern’s new cook finds some unwelcome “help” baking pies for canal boat travelers when the over-indulged daughter of the owner decides to spend some time in the kitchen.

A-B-C, EASY AS 1-2-3



Have fun by stepping back in time to learn how spelling, reading and writing were taught in the seventeen and eighteen hundreds when our 17th century building is once again open for business. Friendly schoolmarm Jackie Howes will be quizzing visitors on subjects commonly taught in the 18th century -- so try the chili (it’s brain food, you know!) and head on over to test your knowledge. And give a sympathetic hello to the boy in the dunce cap, he’s been there all day! (*1790 Red Schoolhouse*)

MAKE YOUR MARK IN HISTORY



As we visit Simsbury’s past, we shouldn’t forget we’re history-makers too and we’re offering the opportunity for visitors of all ages to make their own “mark” in history. (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Time Capsule*

You’re invited to put your memories of the present and predictions for the future in a special time-capsule that will be opened on our 200th birthday.

❖ *“Thumb-prints Up” for the Pinchot Sycamore*

Simsbury artist Pam Albertsen has created a drawing of the famed Pinchot Sycamore, the largest tree in Connecticut which grows right here in Simsbury. Our version is a leaf-less tree, though, and to make it complete, we’ll need everyone’s help—press your thumb on a waiting inkpad, choose your branch and make your mark!

ENSIGN – BICKFORD EXPLOSIVES WAGON



The distinctive green, yellow and red fuse wagon, until recently in storage during restoration, will be on display outside the Victorian Carriage House. Visitors will be able to pose for photos in front of the wagon, which was used in the 19th and early 20th centuries to safely carry manufactured fuses from the EB factory to the railroad station for transportation.

BOOM! BANG! THWACK!



Mark Brady is a long-time Revolutionary war re-enactor. Formerly an engineer in the King's Own IV Regiment of Foot Soldiers and member of the Captain Couch Company Colonial Militia, he has participated in numerous "battles," parades and educational programs. He will give demonstrations of antique weaponry over the course of the day.

(Ellsworth Building parking lot)

❖ *3- Pounder Naval Deck Gun*

Weighing in at 400 pounds, this cannon fires a 3 pound steel ball about ¼ of a mile. Using black powder and no cannonball (of course), Mark will be firing the cannon at 11:00 a.m. to kick off the celebration, then every hour on the hour until the end of the festivities.

❖ *Brown Bess Musketoon/Carbine*

Mark will be firing his 75- caliber standard Colonial militia musket - exciting and LOUD!

❖ *Tomahawks*

Mark is the proud owner of six "hawks." He says he saw a Queen's Ranger throw one at a tree, decided to try it himself, hit a bulls-eye the first throw, and then competed for four years and was unbeaten. He'll be demonstrating his throwing skills throughout the day.

SHE'S A WITCH!



She's been gone for 331 years, but Debby Griffen, the fabled Simsbury Witch, will be joining us for the Centennial Celebration! Grab a seat and the hand of the person next to you and prepare to shiver a little as Debby tells her story. And, it's your lucky day – she's even agreed to pose for photographs with visitors. No guarantees that your camera can capture her image, but give her a smile and she just might cast a spell to make sure your

camera works! *(Behind the Meetinghouse)*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!



What would a birthday celebration be without cake?! With all our historic wooden buildings around, we decided against 100 candles, but local bakeries graciously agreed to donate cakes for everyone to enjoy. The Food Network Cake Challenge has nothing on Simsbury. Come see --and eat -- these incredible edibles! YUM! *(Phelps Homestead Lawn)*

Participating Bakeries: Cupcakes, Fitzgerald's, Harvest Café, Pastels, Stop & Shop

You Learn Something New (About Old Things) Everyday



The day will include many opportunities for learning something new about old things. Wander the grounds to see interactive demonstrations and listen to specialty talks about buildings, people and Simsbury's history.

❖ *Herb Gardening*

Susan Prentice of the Simsbury Garden Club will be sharing her expertise in our lovely English herb garden, which was designed, and is maintained by, the Garden Club. (*Hendrick Cottage Herb Garden*)

❖ *Ensign-Bickford's Place in History*

The Ensign-Bickford Company has been an integral part of Simsbury since 1836. Historical Society Board member Alan Lahue will discuss how EB, first a safety fuse manufacturer and now an aerospace and defense company, helped shape Simsbury's history as well as the history of the country. (*Ensign-Bickford Museum Building*)

❖ *Simsbury Land Trust*

SLT members will talk about the contributions that residents of Simsbury have made to the conservation movement over the years, and the impact of these contributions on our town, state and country. Tour the Courthouse and learn how you can partner with the Simsbury Land Trust to ensure that the places in Simsbury we value will be enjoyed by future generations and that the land we live in remains a healthy and vibrant environment (*Old Probate Courthouse*)

❖ *Spinning*

Donna Hopkins, an experienced spinner and weaver, will be demonstrating the art of spinning, a necessary part of home-based textile production of the 1700s. (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Weaving*

The Hendrick Cottage has a full-size loom on display and weaver Kathy Grant will be demonstrating the specialized craft many New Englanders practiced in their home. (*Hendrick Cottage Loom Room*)

BRINGING YOU THE CLASSICS

❖ *Silver Casts a Long Shadow!*

Simsbury resident Ernie Smith is the owner of several classic cars. He will be bringing his classic 1920's Rolls Royce to help us celebrate – come see how the other half lived in the Roaring 20s!

❖ *Where's the Fire (Truck)?*

The Simsbury Fire Department is bringing Engine 1, a 1935 pumper originally purchased by the Ensign-Bickford company for their fire brigade. The firefighters will be ready to answer questions and share the history of Simsbury's all-volunteer fire company.

BAUBLES, BOOKS AND BEADS



The Historical Society's gift shop is filled with replicas of Higley copper and tri-corner hats, books for adults and children, Simsbury chocolate, and items made by local craftspeople – plus Simsbury sweatshirts and tee-shirts are also available. **Visitors may purchase the newly-created "Simsbury Bead" which fits perfectly on necklaces and Pandora bracelets.** Pre-orders of the Historical Society's 100th

Anniversary Commemorative book will also be taken, and if you haven't had a chance to join the Simsbury Historical Society but would like to support the Society's mission, membership brochures will be available.

JUMP IN AND HAVE SOME FUN!



History isn't just listening and learning! For our younger visitors, we've got activities and games that are fabulous, fantastic and fun (and educational too, shhhh!). Take home your craft or pick up a prize, try balancing on stilts, rolling a hoop or catching The Graces – it's all fantastic fun!

❖ *Haypile*

Jump right in, dig around and see what color poker chip you find, then redeem it for a prize in the Ellsworth Gallery Gift Shop.

❖ *Colonial Games*

Before TV, I-Pods, and the Internet, there were stilts, 9-Man Morris, Jacob's Ladder and other hands-on games. Find out what it means to play without being plugged in! (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Corn-Husk Dolls and Marble-making*

Kids in Colonial times made their own fun and sometimes their own toys...younger visitors are invited to give it a try and make their own corn-husk dolls and marbles to take home. (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Bubble Buddy*

The Bubble Buddy is ready to entertain with his bubble-maker – catch them, float them, pop them...just for fun! (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Face Painting*

Our creative face-painters are ready to paint animal faces, rainbows, flowers...even a tri-corner hat or your choice of historical decoration! (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Give it a Try (On)*

The Simsbury Fire Department will be bringing along some fire boots, coats and hats for children (of all ages) who want to be honorary firefighters to see what it's like to wear the real thing. SHS will also be providing colonial clothing – see what it's like to step back (and try to walk around!) in the 18th century!

BAKERS, START YOUR OVENS!



The Simsbury Historical Society is not just about buildings, it's about the community. The churches and synagogues in Simsbury have contributed greatly to our town and to its history, and we wanted to include them in our celebration. Communities of faith are known for great baking, so we invited all the religious institutions in town to send us four of their best bakers to compete in the first ever Simsbury Bake-off. Competitors will be entering cakes and pies and our esteemed judges will be awarding prizes for presentation, taste and creativity. (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Participating Religious Institutions (To date)*

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom, First Church of Christ, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Saint Bernard's Church, Saint Catherine's Church, Saint Mary's Church, Simsbury United Methodist Church...more to come!

❖ *Judges (To date)*

First Selectman Mary Glassman, Wild Greens Chef Susan Stover, Selectman John Hampton, Simsbury Librarian Sue Bullock...stay tuned for additions to the judging list!

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

❖ *The 18th Connecticut Regiment*

The Fife and Drum Corps, which regularly marches in Simsbury's Memorial Day parade, will bring their authentic Revolutionary War-era music to entertain and educate audiences.

❖ *The Dozing Dogs*

Simsbury's own jazz musicians Joe and Dan Campolieta will open the Chili Cook-off with the mellow strains of Ellington, then swing into the upbeat sound of New Orleans.

❖ *Members of the Marquis of Granby Junior Ancient Fyfe & Drum Corps.*

The award-winning Marquis of Granby junior members, also a staple in our Memorial Day parades, will provide toe-tapping music and some interesting information about ancient fyfe and drum corps.

❖ *On Tap*

This female barbershop quartet will stroll the grounds singing vintage songs accompanied by banjo and guitar – and they'll be leading everyone in a 4- part version of "Happy Birthday" when it's cake time!

❖ *The John Mundy Five*

This Hartt School of Music jazz quintet, led by Simsbury resident John Mundy, will be bringing their sweet sounds to entertain!

TULMEADOW ICE CREAM!

Don Tuller is graciously donating ice cream to accompany our (also donated) birthday cakes. We're offering this outstanding ice cream to all our visitors...for FREE!!

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Tasty treat or one-of-a-kind piece, you may go home with something interesting, edible or just plain wonderful if you give these contests a go. Proceeds of these activities benefit the Historical Society to help maintain the buildings. (*Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *How Many Pumpkins Does it Take?*

Guess correctly how many candy pumpkins fill our giant jar and it's yours to enjoy

❖ *It's a Piece of Cake!*

All the entrants in our Bake-off will be making two of each entry – one for the judges and one for a lucky – and hungry - visitor to purchase.

❖ *Silent Auction*

Our craft show vendors, Simsbury artisans and Rosedale Farms have donated items for our silent auction. Be sure to bid on these exquisite items!

FOOD



In addition to the Chili Cook-off, birthday cake, bake sale and the great food offered by crafts people, we'll also have more great food on sale to keep every tummy full and happy! (*Lower parking lot, Phelps Homestead Lawn*)

❖ *Kane's Market: hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, fries, veggie burgers*

❖ *Avery Soda*

❖ *Water (to benefit the Historical Society)*

❖ *Popcorn (to benefit the Historical Society)*

CRAFTSPEOPLE AND ARTISANS

Just like markets day of old, when people gathered in the town square to sell their wares, local artisans will be on the grounds all day long, selling beautiful hand-made items. Many of our vendors will also be demonstrating their craft for interested audiences – come see creativity in action!

❖ *Bags with Purse-onality*

One-of-a-kind handbags, headbands, and wallets lovingly made by Sandy Dorman Krajick in fabulous fabrics, hand-felted material, and fun and funky colors.

❖ *Red Sky Jewelry*

Specializing in leaded crystals and crystal pearls, Judy Mansor creates stunning necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

❖ *Sweet Wind Farm*

Sweet Wind Farm produces some of New England's best maple syrup and candies, honey and jellies.

❖ *The Planted Feather*

The Planted Feather offers tasty whole grain breads, marvelous muffins and scrumptious cookies.

❖ *Three Sisters Farm*

Essex-based Three Sisters has wonderful organic skin care products, soaps and beeswax candles.

❖ *Mala Beads*

Mala Matcin offers lovely crystal and ceramic bead jewelry for the discerning buyer, and will be demonstrating the artistic process of creating these inspired items.

❖ *BeesEYE Functional Art*

BeesEye offers hand-painted bowls, wooden trays, boxes, Lazy Susans, and much more. In addition to selling her wares, artist Carol Robbins also will be demonstrating the different stages of printed artwork.

❖ *TJ Banks*

Simsbury native and published author Tammy Banks specializes in historical novels. She will be selling and autographing her latest book, a World War I story which begins in Simsbury.

❖ *Avis Chercheti Pottery*

Granby potter Avis Chercheti will be selling and demonstrating her work.

❖ *The Olive Oil Factory*

The Olive Oil Factory's high-quality oils and vinegars will make your salads and pasta dishes rejoice!

❖ *Simsbury Open Studios Artists*

Simsbury artists Cathy Elliot, Deb Leonard and Jackie Jakobowski will be demonstrating art and painting techniques for interested audiences; they will also offer their paintings for sale.

❖ *Half-Baked Polymer Clay*

Colorful, original and fanciful jewelry creations by Betty Cunningham for the young and young-at-heart.

❖ *Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge*

The Flower Bridge committee will be selling beautiful note cards depicting the historic bridge.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ❖ *Parking:* Please use the municipal parking lots located off Iron Horse Boulevard. There will be a drop-off zone in on Hopmeadow Street in front of the Phelps Tavern for those needing direct access to the grounds.
- ❖ *Rain Date:* October 16, 2011. If the Centennial Celebration and Chili Cook-off are postponed due to weather, it will be posted on our website on October 15.

❖ *Questions?* Please call the Simsbury Historical Society at 860-658-2500 or email info@simsburyhistory.org