



POSTAL CUSTOMER
LOCAL

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Portland, Colchester and Salem

Volume 32, Number 24

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

August 24, 2007



Hebron native Matt Troy is currently working on a film on the history of Cesar and Lowis Peters. Currently a film student at New York University, Troy plans to begin shooting next spring and release the film later in the year.

Slaves' History Focus of Upcoming Film

by Sarah McCoy

Matt Troy loves Hebron. Born and raised here, he has always loved the town. He loves its history, its buildings, and, especially, its people. So when it came time to pick a topic for his first professional film, it wasn't surprising that Matt chose Hebron.

Next year the New York University film student and a slew of cast and crew members will descend on Hebron for a week-long shoot on the lives of Cesar and Lowis Peters, the two slaves who in the 18th century were captured and then rescued by Hebron residents.

Even though the film has yet to be made, it has been quite a journey for Matt to get to this point.

Movies were always a big part of life at the Troy household. Family nights were spent curled up in front of the television, with the movies they watched then dissected at the following dinner. But Matt wasn't satisfied passively watching the movies; he wanted to be involved. By fourth grade, armed with nothing more than a camcorder and an imagination, Matt had begun creating his own films.

He didn't stop there.

When he got to RHAM Middle School Matt began learning how to edit as he cre-

ated athletic highlight reels and then wedding videos. By high school he further honed his craft by volunteering to do the lighting for the AHM Summer Youth Theater productions and even began his own production company, Patio Productions. The company is named for the setting of Matt's first amateur film, the back patio at his house.

By senior year Matt was ready to put his years of practice into action as he prepared his application to NYU's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts. The result was *Hemiola*, a unique *Fantasia*-esque story of a boy who wants to be a composer. *Hemiola*, combined with outstanding grades and community service, earned Matt one of only 200 spots in NYU's film school. There are 1,400 applicants to the school each year.

Since then, things have only gotten more exciting for Matt. Last year a school project, his film on the Hebron Fire Department, was featured at NYU's showcase and won a number of awards. This year Matt is off to the Czech Republic where he will be studying the art of 35mm film. And when he returns, he'll tackle his biggest project yet.

The Abduction: The Emancipation of

Cesar and Lowis Peters is slated to be filmed next May. Matt will direct the film, which is expected to be approximately a half an hour. And he'll have plenty of help, as more than a dozen NYU students are expected to be part of the endeavor.

"We'll need cinematographers, costume designers, lighting specialists," he said. "This isn't just some movie that you make with your friends. This is the real deal."

The Peters have been in the news a fair amount lately. The Hebron Board of Selectmen voted last month to begin negotiations to sell the house at 150 East St., which is believed to have been the one-time home of Cesar and Lowis, to resident Jeff Farber. The move has upset some residents in town.

"I know the Peters House has been embroiled in controversy," said Matt. "What gets lost in the politics is the true story that Hebron should be proud of."

According to town documents, Cesar and Lowis Peters were the former slaves of Reverend Samuel Peters. When Rev. Peters fled back to England, Cesar and Lowis remained in town. That is until one day in 1774, when they were captured and brought down to Norwich to be sold as slaves.

Continued on Page 35

Continued from Front Page

Upon hearing the news, Hebron residents banded together to save the couple, claiming that they could not be sold because they were wanted for the robbery of "one Blue Broadcloth Coat with White Mettle Buttons worth Six Shillings" and a pair of "corduroy britches partly worn, worth three shillings," according to the arrest warrant. This lie got the Cesar and Lewis released and the group traveled back to Hebron enjoying cherry rum and brandy along the way.

"People think that the film is about saving the house," Matt said. "Honestly, I want to make the film because the house inspired me and shed insight on Cesar and Lewis Peters and how the town rallied together. It's a fascinating story."

And 2008 is just the year to celebrate Hebron's history as the town prepares a host of events to mark its tricentennial.

A film of this magnitude requires skills, perseverance, dedication, and, of course, money. The project is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Currently Matt's raised \$2,500, thanks to grants from ING, United Technologies, and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

"[Funding] is certainly an obstacle," Matt said candidly. "But, we've overcome a lot of obstacles thus far so I have confidence."

The high cost of production includes feeding and housing the cast and crew, staffing, and the renting of a CineAlta High Definition camera, the same camera George Lucas used to film the newest *Star Wars* films.

Ideally Matt hopes to wrap up shooting the third week in May. He plans on shooting in Hebron and in neighboring towns, specifically Lebanon for their historic buildings. As far as the Peters House in concerned, it may or may not play a role in the film. "It depends on the building's fate," said Matt. "I can't force a new owner to take part in the film but if he's willing, we'd love to have the opportunity."

Currently there are no concrete plans for screening the film, but Matt plans on entering it into a number of festivals including Sundance, Tribeca, Toronto, and Cannes. In the meantime, Matt is looking for all the help he can get. A website for the production has been set up at myspace.com/patioproductions for those interested in learning more. Also, those wanting to make donations to the film can do so by mailing a check to Patio Productions, P.O. Box 567 Hebron, CT 06248.

In the coming months registries will be placed around town for people to volunteer on the project. This can include anything from transporting people and equipment to making meals for the cast and crew.

Upon his return from the Czech Republic in December, Matt plans to begin the casting process and "hit the ground running." He will be assisted by, among others, members of the Hebron Historical Society, who will serve as historical consultants for the film.

"After researching the Cesar and Lewis story for almost four years, we feel we can offer historical advice to Matthew, but there's no doubt he has a vision for telling this story in a way that no one will ever forget," said Historical Society Vice President Donna McCalla. "Matthew's creative and innovative way through film to preserve this piece of history is the type of project that we, as a historical society, are charged, and happy, to support."

Hebron Town Manager Jared Clark also gave his nod of approval and best wishes to Matt, marking the first time he and McCalla have agreed on anything concerning the Peters name.

"It's a great idea," Clark said. "It's a chance to pull together, in a media that people find enjoyable, aspects of Hebron history. Much like the Nathan Hale homestead, this could be a visual experience that brings that time period alive."

Thumbs Up for RHAM Schools Superintendent

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Board of Education gave its seal of approval to Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski at its meeting Monday, Aug. 20.

The board unanimously approved the positive evaluation of Siminski, who just completed his second year with the regional school district, which serves students in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

The annual review is standard protocol for the RHAM Board of Education. The district uses an evaluation tool sanctioned by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). It measures criteria such as personal qualities, job skills, leadership, and relationships with the Board of Education and the general public.

"Everything was positive. Nothing negative," Board of Education Chairman Al Covino said of Siminski's review.

Board member and review coordinator Jim Cherry echoed Covino's sentiments. When asked about Siminski's strengths, he replied, "Oh man, there's a lot of things we could talk about."

Cherry praised the superintendent for keeping all of the board members apprised of news and issues surrounding the schools and for his work uniting the three towns.

Siminski "has worked very hard to make relationships with the local boards of education and with the other district superintendents," Cherry said. "It is so important that we are on the same page with the elementary schools to

ensure a smooth transition and Bob has done a wonderful job doing that."

The highest score awarded to Siminski came in the area of ethics, honesty, and integrity. In his letter to the superintendent, Cherry praised Siminski for consistently behaving above reproach; because of this, Cherry wrote, Siminski has "gained credibility with the Board [of Education] and the public."

Even the lowest score given by the school board was above average. Board members awarded Siminski a 3.7, out of a possible five points, for selecting, developing and motivating personnel. However, the lower score is due mainly because several Board of Education members felt they didn't have the knowledge or evidence in assessing the superintendent on this particular matter.

In order to accurately conduct the assessment process each member of the Board of Education ranked Siminski from 1-5 in a wide array of categories. Cherry then gathered the figures, determined the average of the marks, and added summaries. This document was then reviewed and slightly altered before the school board officially approved the positive evaluation.

With the review complete, Siminski will now work with the Negotiations Committee to determine a possible salary increase. Last year, the superintendent made \$128,000. A possible timeframe to complete salary negotiations was unknown at press time.

Grant to Help Fund Hebron Fire Truck Restoration

Restoration of Hebron's original fire truck, a 1937 Ford Sanford, got a big boost Friday, Aug. 17, when state Rep. Pamela Z. Sawyer announced she had secured a \$5,000 state grant for the effort.

Hebron's 300th anniversary, coming up next year, will be "enriched by the restoration of the fabulous 1937 fire truck," Sawyer said. The committee's goal is to raise 50k for restoration of truck and purchase of trailer.

"I am so glad that the state will be able to contribute a \$5,000 grant," she continued. "I have such a deep respect for the dedication and hard work that Hebron volunteer firefighters put forth, year in and year out. Restoration of their original fire truck will be a lasting historical tribute to those volunteers and to the town of Hebron."

The truck is currently undergoing renovations at Chatham Restoration in Cobalt. With the engine now running, work on the chassis has begun. The project is on schedule for completion by May 2008, when it will be driven in Hebron's Memorial Day parade. After that, the truck will also be available to neighboring communities for special events.

The fundraising committee's goal is to raise \$50,000 for the truck restoration and the purchase of a trailer for the truck itself, and to construct a building to house and display the truck. About \$27,000, has been raised so far, including the state grant.

"I am in awe at what Rep. Sawyer was able to arrange for us and we are grateful to the state of Connecticut for its support of our effort,"

Harvey Desruisseaux, who chairs the Antique Fire Truck Restoration Fundraising Committee, said. "All will be pleased with the end product."

Longtime fire department member and past chief Bruce DeGray, responsible for coordinating the fundraising efforts with the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD), said, "I was thrilled to hear that we received the \$5,000 grant toward Hebron's 1937 first fire truck restoration project, an important part of Hebron's history. This is a significant amount of financial aid for this project, and HVFD is most grateful to Pam for this contribution."

Also attending an informal ceremony Monday announcing the grant was former fire chief Dan Larson, who has actively worked on the restoration effort for several years. "Pam has always been a friend of the fire services, and here's just another example of her diligent and tireless work on behalf of Hebron," Larson said. "We thank her for understanding the importance of this project, not only for Hebron and our upcoming 300th anniversary celebrations, but for all of eastern Connecticut where a fire truck like this is extremely rare."

The fundraising committee's next effort is a raffle. Grand prize is a cruise for two to a Caribbean destination of the winner's choosing. Other prizes include a high definition plasma television, two luxury outdoor grills, and a \$200 gift certificate at Ted's. Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale early next month. For more information, stop by the committee's booth at the upcoming Hebron Harvest Fair.



State Rep. Pamela Z. Sawyer recently announced she secured a \$5,000 state grant to help with the restoration of the town's original fire truck, a 1937 Ford Sanford. Pictured, from left, are Bruce DeGray, Sawyer, Harvey Desruisseaux and Dan Larson. In the background is a rendition of the 1937 fire truck painted by the 1995 RHAM art class.

New Assistant Principal at RHAM High School

by Sarah McCoy

It's probably a safe bet that most resumes of high school administrators don't have work at a potato company listed under "previous job experience."

That's not the case for Thomas Mueller.

Earlier this month Mueller was hired as assistant principal at RHAM High School. He replaces Jason Peacock who left during the summer to become principal at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School in Moodus.

Education is Mueller's second career — or, as he said, "is it third, fourth, or fifth?"

Mueller began his career as a food scientist for the American Potato Company, in Blackfoot, ID. After leaving Idaho, Mueller then took a position with the Heinz Corporation. For 17 years, he developed new food products, managed a \$4.2 million budget, and oversaw over 45 employees.

"As I was doing that," he recalled. "I realized that I really liked taking the new graduates and teaching them."

In 1997 Mueller took over as vice president of Monsanto, a high-end recreation facility focused on a person's "whole health," including nutrition, physical health, spiritual, and emotional well-being.

Mueller left the company in 1999.

"Eight years ago I had a chance to sit back and ask myself, 'what did I like doing over the last 20 years?'" he said. "I realized that it was teaching. Well, it was more than teaching. I enjoyed creating an environment to help others reach their potential."

Realizing that, Mueller enrolled in the Connecticut Alternative Route to Certification program and became certified to teach middle school and high school science and math. He began his teaching career in Vernon where Mueller taught eighth grade math. He has spent the last six years teaching math at Glastonbury High School.

While at Glastonbury, Mueller decided to take the next step in his professional career. He became certified in the Beginning Educator Support and Training program (BEST), to oversee student teachers and interns. And, he returned to school himself. Mueller began taking graduate level education courses at Central Connecticut State University and recently earned his Connecticut School Ad-



ministrators certificate from Sacred Heart University.

"I want to be in this spot," Mueller said, tapping his hands on his new desk. "I am here to contribute to the system that uses the educational environment to help students find their passion."

With his new job comes eagerness and excitement. "The wonderful part about RHAM is that I don't feel the need to come in and change things," Mueller said. "There is already a good culture here with high expectations and standards. I am here to be a team player and to excite the groups of kids to, I hope, make the best of the time in high school."

Despite no prior administrative experience, Principal Scott Leslie said he has no reservations about his new colleague.

"He has a genuine concern for student well being," Leslie said. "And his enthusiasm for the position comes through loud and clear. I was pleased to see the [search] committee and the Board [of Education] were as impressed as I was by Tom."

Fifty-three individuals applied for the Assistant Principal opening. Leslie and Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski then paired that list down to ten. From there a screening committee, comprised of students, teachers, and members of the administration, interviewed those 10 and recommended four go forth to the next round. Siminski interviewed the four possible candidates and recommended the top two be interviewed by the Board of Education. Along the way, Mueller separated himself as the clear favorite.

"It is important for students to feel comfortable with their Assistant Principal," Leslie said. "Tom is someone who they'll be able to search out and get to know. He has a strong academic background, experience as a teacher, and experience on the business side as a leader. I have no doubt that he'll be an asset to RHAM."

Mueller began his career at RHAM on Monday. In addition to his role as part of the administrative team, he will also be specifically responsible for scheduling and discipline for the incoming freshmen and junior classes.

Mueller lives in Portland with his wife and daughter, Kayla, who is a student at Colgate University. When he's not working, he enjoys the outdoors, literature, woodworking, and music.

"I'm a rock and roll kind of guy," he said. "Anything from Jerry Garcia to Dashboard Confessional."

East Hampton Police News

8/6 — Matthew Dessureault, 18, of 7 North Maple St., was issued a ticket for operating a motorcycle without a license, East Hampton police say.

8/11 — Jared Petronio, 20, of 146 Dewey Ave., Newington, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and possession of narcotics, police say.

8/11 — David Bekhor, 37, of 144 W. 23rd St., New York, NY was arrested for failure to drive right and operating under the influence of alcohol, police report.

8/11 — Sandra Bernier, 40, of 128 East Main St., Rockville, was arrested for possession of cocaine, police say.

8/15 — Alan Greco, 41, of 85 North Main St., was arrested for violation of a court order and disorderly conduct, police say.

Zero Hour for Colchester Town Budget

by Jim Salemi

The town and schools budgets were hit hard following two Board of Finance workshops held at the library this week, though both budgets were spared some items on their respective cut lists.

The Board of Finance, by consensus, chose to cut the adjusted mill rate increase in the taxation portion of the presented budget to reflect a zero mill increase.

Voters rejected the finance board's last three presented budgets. The last referendum, held July 24 on a \$47.3 million budget, occurred after property owners received their first tax installment bill following revaluation. The proposed spending plan failed by a larger margin than it did at the second referendum, leading officials to believe voters rejected the proposed budget out of reaction to increases in their tax bills.

The next referendum is scheduled for Sept. 25. It's likely the vote will be on a \$47 million budget; the official figure is expected to be finalized at a Board of Finance meeting next Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

Also at next Tuesday's meeting, the finance board will also put together a presentation for taxpayers. The presentation is slated to take place Thursday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

But for those hit hard in revaluation, even a downward adjustment to a zero mill increase will have little impact by way of tax relief, officials have stated in the past. This was evident by residents' comments at the meeting.

"I don't think going to zero will provide the tax relief people are looking for," resident Monica Swyden-Bolles told the finance board. "Going from 23.3 mills to 23.0, you can see the impact. It's disturbing the Bacon Academy guidance counselor is being cut. The community is upset...I ask you to consider something in between."

The finance board did cut \$373,000 from the combined town and school board budget so it reflected a zero mill increase, even though the Board of Education was spared the funds to hire an additional guidance counselor if it chooses.

The Board of Finance directed the Board of Education to cut \$80,710 from its budget. The school board had submitted a cut list totaling

\$145,370.

In addition to the guidance counselor, the school board had also proposed to eliminate a crossing guard position at the elementary school, since that position had yet to be filled.

Other items on the cut list were a proposed elimination of indoor track at Bacon Academy High School, a popular sport at the school with about 55 participants, for a savings of \$10,000.

School board chair Bill Hettrick told the finance board indoor track was settled upon since there are other options for students who participate in track, such as fall track.

Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle also found \$26,594 in adjustments, since there have been some resignations of personnel on the higher end of the pay scale replaced by new hires lower on the pay scale.

Included in the adjustments are savings in other accounts such as transportation, benefits, tuition for students who choose to participate in a vo-ag program and utilities, among other items.

Loiselle also proposed expanding "pay to play" to "pay to participate."

The education board is scheduled to meet next Monday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m., at Town Hall, to revamp its cut list to reflect the \$80,710 cut issued by the Board of Finance.

The Board of Selectmen had its workshop Monday, Aug. 20, where First Selectman Stan Soby presented a series of three cut lists to the finance board.

The Board of Finance, which can decide on line items in the town budget, cut a total of \$292,247. Soby's proposed cuts from the Board of Selectmen's budget totaled over \$380,518. The finance board, however, kept in \$36,503 for an 11th police officer, \$6,000 for the Well Child health program and \$45,000 for technology, for items such as computers and software.

The finance board did eliminate the purchase of a truck that was slated to be bought with state Town Aid for Roads (TAR) grant money. The board instead put that money, totaling \$130,000, into road repair and maintenance.

"We are not cutting people," Soby said after the meeting. "Residents can expect the same level of services they have always had."

Colchester Police News

8/16—Arnold E. Hersey, 40, of East Haddam, was arrested for misuse of plates, driving with a suspended license, driving an unregistered motor vehicle and unnecessary noise, according to police.

8/15—Twin brothers were arrested on numerous warrants charging them with burglary and theft, among other charges, after the pair was arrested when police responded to a report of a burglary on Paper Mill Road.

The men were arrested on seven warrants, following an investigation by the Colchester Police Department, charging, burglary, criminal mischief, and theft and conspiracy charges.

According to reports, Colchester police responded to a call last April reporting a burglary in progress at the old paper mill on the corner of Paper Mill Road and Route 149 in the Westchester section of town.

Police said they found Thomas Weeks, 23, of Clinton, and his brother, who was only identified as Shaun Weeks, cutting copper pipes inside the mill. Police said the men had burglary tools in their possession and more were found in a truck they allegedly used to get to the site.

Police said the men are also responsible for "numerous" other burglaries under investigation by the Colchester Police Department.

8/16—Mitchell Boileau, 18, of 80 Bausola Rd., Andover, turned himself in on a warrant for third degree arson, according to police.

8/18—Police say they are investigating the theft of a car parked in a yard on Clark Lane. Bridgeport police found the car in that city later that night. It had been burned, according to police.

8/21—Nathan Harrison, 23, of 59 Lynn St., was arrested for violation of a protective order, according to police.

Andover Police News

8/20—Police report they are investigating the theft of tools from a trailer parked at 29 Brown Dr.

8/22—Police say they are investigating the theft of scaffolding from property at 5 Bunker Hill Rd.

Hebron Police News

8/15—Police say they are investigating an incident of vandalism to a home on Deep Woods Drive. The siding of the home was dented and a double-pane window was smashed by rocks, according to police. Anyone with any information is asked to call Trooper Alston at 537-7500.

Obituaries

Colchester

Richard Berglund

Richard Howard Berglund, “Dick,” 70, of Colchester and formerly of East Haddam, long-time companion of Jacqueline Tierney, passed away Thursday, Aug. 16, at home. Born Aug. 5, 1937, in Worcester, MA, he was the son of the late William and Mary (Murray) Berglund. He proudly served with the Air Force between 1956 and 1960. For many years, Dick was a Foreman for Pratt & Whitney and later went on to work as a Quality Control Inspector for Tri-Town Plastics, formerly of East Haddam, until his retirement in 1999. He was a member of the American Legion Post 156 in East Haddam and was a former member of the East Haddam Vol. Fire Dept. During his retirement, he and Jackie enjoyed spending their winters in Florida and spending time with his grandsons.

In addition to his companion of 34 years, he is survived by two children, Richard and Patti Berglund, Jr. and Merrilee Berglund, all of Okeechobee, FL; a stepdaughter, Robin Danley of Okeechobee, FL; two grandsons, Rickie and Austin Berglund of Okeechobee, FL; his sister and brother-in-law, Diana and Richard Batchelder and their daughter, Deborah, all of Webster, MA; Jackie’s children, Michael Tierney of Newington, Andrew Tierney of East Hampton and Patricia, Daniel and Philip Tierney, all of East Haddam; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Monday, Aug. 20 at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service. Interment with military honors will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Donations in his memory may be made to the East Haddam Vol. Fire Dept., P.O. Box 4, East Haddam, CT 06423.

East Hampton

Eugene Albert Hubbard

Eugene Albert “Zeke” Hubbard, 78, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Jeanne (Robida) Hubbard, died Saturday, Aug. 18, at Middlesex Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Aug. 14, 1929 in Middletown, the son of the late Harold S. and Claira (Hall) Hubbard he had lived in East Hampton since his marriage to his loving wife Jeanne in 1958. Zeke was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton and a retired foreman of the State Highway Garage. Eugene is a United States Army Veteran having served his country during the Korean War. He has been very active in the East Hampton American Legion Post 64 Treadway Cavanaugh and the VFW Post 5095, having served as Post Commander in 1996, 1997 and 1999, he served as a liaison between Post 5095 and the Scouts, he was elected District Commander 1999-2000, Post Chaplin, District 6 Quartermaster Adjutant, he also served as VFW State Chairman of Boy Scouts. He was recently a member of the East Hampton Housing Authority. Zeke was honored by the Town of East Hampton with the award of “Citizen of the Year for 2005.”

Besides his wife he is survived by his children and their spouses, Lawrence and Joyce Hubbard of New Hampshire, Jeanne and Sean Hogan of Glastonbury, Katherine and Gregory Brown of Pennsylvania; five sisters, Jeanette Knotek of East Hampton, Catherine Clough of New Mexico, Clara Daboll of Middlefield, Carol Potvin of Maine, and Nancy Kossar of New Mexico; four grandchildren, Ian Hogan, Alysia Hogan, Mason Brown, and Holden Brown; and many nieces and nephews. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 22, in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial with full military honors was in the State of Connecticut Veteran’s Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Main Street in East Hampton on Tuesday evening. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to VFW Post 5095, North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424. For directions and to leave online condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

East Hampton

Michael Chartier

Michael R. Chartier, 56, of East Hampton, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Aug. 18, at his home. A full obituary will follow at a later date. The Spencer Funeral home has care of arrangements.

East Hampton

Jean Battit

Jean (Crosby) Battit, 77, of Summit Street, East Hampton, beloved wife of Nicholas E. Battit, died Wednesday, Aug. 15, at her home. Born Nov. 17, 1929, in Medford, MA, the daughter of the late Roy B. and Adele (Gutoski) Crosby, she had lived in East Hampton for more than 40 years. Before her retirement she had worked for more than 22 years as a music teacher in the West Hartford school system. As a teacher she had been a member of both the CEA and the NEA.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her stepson David N. Battit of Massachusetts; her stepdaughter Anne Battit of Massachusetts; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a stepson, Alan Battit, and her brother Robert Crosby. Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions in Jean’s memory may be made to United Cerebral Palsy of Eastern Connecticut, Inc., 42 Norwich Rd., Quaker Hill, CT 06375. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements. To leave on line condolences to the family visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Dorothy DuPaul

Dorothy (Perry) DuPaul, 98, of East Hampton and formerly of North Haven, widow of Wilfred H. DuPaul, died Friday, Aug. 17, at Middlesex Hospital. Born June 24, 1909, in London, England, the daughter of the late Edward W. and Annie (Lankister) Perry, she had lived in East Hampton for the past 20 years. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, and had retired from Burndy Corp. of North Haven where she had worked as a shipping clerk. Dorothy enjoyed bingo and loved to read. She was deeply loved by her family and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her two sons and their wives, Ronald E. and Betty DuPaul of Kansas City, MO., Gary J. and April DuPaul of East Hampton; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Cyril Perry; and two sisters, Madge Nuttall and Lillian DeLorenzo. The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home on Main Street on Tuesday, Aug. 21, followed by a funeral liturgy in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial followed in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Monday evening. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457. If you wish to leave on line condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Katherine Dorothy Farnell

Katherine Dorothy Farnell, wife of the late Denis F. Farnell, passed away on Saturday, May 26, in Plainfield, NJ, after a brief illness. Born Sept. 7, 1912, in Hartford, she was the daughter of Charles and Katherine Dettenborn. Farnell graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1934. Prior to moving to Plainfield, NJ, in 1998 after the death of her husband, she had lived in Middletown, East Hampton and Avon. She had been a high school teacher in Hartford and Avon where she retired in 1968.

She is survived by two sons, Alan S. Farnell and his wife Roberta with two grandsons, Thomas and Jeffery of Oakbrook, IL, and Donald B. Farnell and his wife Gail with a granddaughter, Lauren of Gillette, NJ. Like her husband before her, she has donated her body to science for medical research.

East Hampton

Roberta Barker

Roberta “Sis” (Strickland) Barker died Saturday, Aug. 18, after a long battle with cancer. She was born March 23, 1943, to the late Robert Strickland Sr. and Gertrude Strickland of North Carolina. Roberta was educated within the East Hampton School System and lived in several towns in Connecticut, before moving to Florida in 1980 with her family.

Roberta is survived by her two daughters, Lyndia Demsher of Lute, FL and Cheryl Hall of St. Petersburg, FL, with whom she made her home. Along with her two daughters she is survived by grandchildren Jonathan, Ashley, Krystan, all of Florida; three brothers, Thomas Strickland and family of East Hampton, Ken Strickland and family of Marlborough, and Arthur Strickland and family of North Carolina. Roberta was predeceased by a brother, Robert Strickland Jr. Along with her grandchildren, mother, and brothers, Roberta leaves several nieces and nephews spread out across the United States.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.