

---

---

# SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY Quarterly

Volume 24 Issue 1

Summer 2022

---

---

## A Blacksmith Business at Its Peak Part 3: Saddlers, Stone Cutters, Brick and Shingle Makers

*The previous two parts of this article dealt with Isaac Ensign's life and the metal work he did, mostly using iron, but occasionally steel, brass or silver. Very little cash exchanged hands, so the goods and services with which he was reimbursed reveal much about his customers' endeavors. There were agricultural products for both human and animal consumption, things that they made, and goods from their stores and taverns. This account book, and any ledger that records barter transactions, is a good source of information for people researching their family history and a town's early businesses. The account book has entries dating between 1784 and 1808, except for one account dated 1775.*

### Saddlers in 18th-Century Simsbury

All of Isaac Ensign's regular customers farmed, at least for their own subsistence. Many of their accounts indicate various sidelines they used to supplement their incomes. One of the most clearly identifiable sidelines is that of lawyer Daniel Humphrey. He and several of his sons made saddles.

Manufacturing saddles involved four specialized trades. Saddletree makers produced the wooden frame to which all the other parts were attached. Blacksmiths produced saddle irons; that is, the iron straps and plates that reinforced the wooden saddletree and the nails that attached the iron parts. (Stirrups seem to have been bought separately.) Tanners produced leather to cover the saddle and to make the straps, skirts and flaps. Finally, saddlers cut the leather according to patterns they had developed and covered the reinforced saddletree with padding topped by the leather. They handstitched everything together to make the finished product.

Nothing in the account book indicates that any of Isaac Ensign's customers were saddletree makers, but it may be that the Humphreys themselves made the ones they used. The genealogy of the Humphrey family by Frederick Humphreys says that Daniel Humphrey's father, Deacon Michael Humphrey, introduced the manufacture of leather to Simsbury, so the family still may have run a tannery.<sup>1</sup> They certainly produced numerous saddles.

The first indication of saddle making is a notation in Ensign's book in June 1788 that says Daniel Humphrey had brought the blacksmith two saddletrees and two sidesaddle saddletrees to "iron." Then in August, Humphrey ordered "irons for Side Sadel."

After these notations, Daniel Humphrey's account shows very little else that indicates that he himself made saddles, although he sold them. The next January Ensign paid for "a sadel by Daniel Humphry Esq." on behalf of his brother-in-law Bildad Barber. The price was £2.10.0, which was about the usual price as shown by subsequent purchases. (In comparison, Ensign paid £2.7.6 and £2.10.0 for heifers and £3.5.0 for a cow.)

Four of Daniel Humphrey's eight sons had accounts in Isaac Ensign's book: Daniel Granville, Alexander Campbell (called Campbell), Philander and Augustus. They all made saddles, at least for a time. Campbell eventually established his own business. Simsbury tax lists in 1795 and 1798 assess him for his saddler business.<sup>2</sup>

Over the years Ensign charged the Humphreys fifteen times for "ironing" saddletrees, twice for

"plates" for saddletrees and once for "riveting iron" onto an old saddletree. A 1747 report from Ireland told of a mishap with such a saddletree,

At Galway, a Gentleman who held his Horse by the reins, under a wall where he had taken shelter, had his Saddle torn to pieces by the Lightning, but neither he, nor the Horse received any hurt; the saddletree being plated with iron, was probably the cause of this accident.<sup>3</sup>

Over a period of fifteen years, the Humphrey men ordered a total of 139½ sets of saddle irons, some of the orders being for half a set. There is no indication of what items constituted a set, but each set cost a shilling and eight pence. On one occasion Ensign filled an order for irons for a horse cart saddle.

Eight and a half of the sets of irons were for women's sidesaddles. Three times the blacksmith attached "horns" to sidesaddles; that is, two vertical, leather-covered prongs on the pommel in front of the seat. These allowed women in their long skirts to sit both modestly and securely with their right leg through the horns so that both legs were on the left side of the saddle rather than astride it. The two horns used in Ensign's day allowed women to ride only at moderate speeds. It wasn't until about 1830 that Frenchman Jules Pellier added the running or leaping horn, placed on the left side, that enabled women riding sidesaddle to reach a speed fast enough for jumping.<sup>4</sup>

Campbell Humphrey made bridles as well as saddles since Ensign gave him credit for a bridle "all but the bits." Of course, the blacksmith could make the metal bits himself to fit into his horse's mouth. Ensign also mended bridle bits for Campbell and made two bits for Augustus.

Daniel Granville Humphrey's account shows orders for only seventeen and a half sets of saddleirons and 200 saddle nails. Of the younger Humphrey brothers with accounts, Philander ordered only three sets of saddle irons, but Augustus ordered twenty-eight and three for sidesaddles, plus 320 sidesaddle nails. The young son, Chauncey, had no account in Ensign's book, but it is known that he became a saddle and harness maker in Torrington before moving on to Ohio.<sup>5</sup>

Campbell Humphrey, who was the most involved in saddle making, remained in Simsbury. He settled his account with Ensign in October 1804, but may have had more transactions that were recorded in Ensign's third and final ledger. In 1829 he was involved in an accident and died at the age of sixty-one. Surprisingly, the inventory of his estate contains not a single item related to saddle making.<sup>6</sup>

This Humphrey family was known for much more than the saddles they made. Daniel Humphrey had left Simsbury to practice law in Norfolk where his father had moved, but he returned to settle in town. In 1760 he married Rachel Phelps, daughter of David and Abigail (Pettibone) Phelps and sister of Noah Phelps. (Isaac Ensign's customer Noah Phelps was noted for his part in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga during the Revolutionary War and later was promoted to Major General in the Connecticut militia.) Daniel Humphrey served during the war in the 18th Regiment Connecticut Militia. He also represented Simsbury during twenty-three of the General Assembly's biannual sessions between 1777 and 1803. In 1787, Simsbury sent lawyer Humphrey and General Noah Phelps to Hartford to vote against ratifying the United States Constitution, which they did, although Humphrey declared that this was against his private conviction.<sup>7</sup>

Campbell Humphrey represented Simsbury in the state legislature in 1812 and 1813. He also served as a Justice of the Peace from 1806 to 1818.<sup>8</sup> Daniel Granville Humphrey settled in the Torrington section of Torrington and was a selectman there. Philander Humphrey settled in Hartland where he practiced as a physician and trained many others in that profession. Augustus Humphrey moved several times, eventually

---

### The Humphrey Name

In past generations, members of the family spelled their name variously Humphry, Humfrey, Humphries and Humphreys, as well as Humphrey, and pronounced it "umphrey." Occasionally it is spelled without the "H" in early records. The late Barbara Tuller (1919-2019), a former trustee of the Simsbury Free Library, remembered that the members of the Humphrey family that she knew as a girl pronounced the name without the "H."

---

settling in Hartland where he became a hotel-keeper. He also became a Justice of the Peace and represented the town in the legislature in 1827.<sup>9</sup>

Isaac Ensign's customer Oliver Adams seems to have made saddles, too. Between March 1788 and December 1791 he asked the blacksmith to make him twenty-seven sets of saddle irons, one being for a sidesaddle. He ran up very few other debts. Ensign shod his horse once, mended a shoe buckle, made him a pair of hinges and the like. However, Ensign must have run up a bill in Adams' ledger because when they compared books on April 19, 1792, Ensign owed Adams twelve shillings and eight pence. Usually Ensign's customers owed *him* money. They agreed that Ensign would pay off the debt with "Smith work."

Amasa Case Jr. also had enough charges for sets of saddle irons in his account between 1794 and 1797 to suggest that he was making saddles at that time. He ordered a total of eighteen, with two being for sidesaddles. He also ordered two pairs of bridle bits. In payment he provided Ensign with a pair of shoes and leather for another pair, as well as money. The 1795 Simsbury tax list gives his trade as shoemaker and tanner. His large account with Ensign also included equipment and repairs consistent with an active farmer.

John Case Marvin and Elisha Tuller were the only other customers to order sets of saddle irons. Marvin ordered six sets one day in 1788 and Tuller ordered three sets one day in 1794.

### Simsbury's Stone Cutters, Quarry Owners and Masons

Ensign's customer Calvin Barber owned and operated quarries with his older brother Jared. Jared moved to Sheldon, New York, sometime after 1805, and Calvin continued the quarry business. He is described in early tax lists as a stone cutter and mason. The number of notations for sharpening chisels that Ensign recorded shows how labor intensive quarrying and cutting stone was. Between 1791 and 1794 he sharpened chisels for Jared 70 times and between 1791 and 1799 he sharpened chisels for Calvin 697 times.

In addition to sharpening chisels, Ensign charged Calvin Barber for "Laying a Chiffel with Iron an Steel"; that is, repairing the worn tool by welding new iron to the long blade and new steel to the cutting edge. (Often his notation for this process was just "New Laying a Chiffel.") He also tempered the chisels but generally didn't make them or the sledge hammers he repaired. He did charge Barber for making a 5-pound axe, "an ax to hew stoan," as he put it. Later he charged for upsetting an axe for hewing stone; that is, making the worn axe blade thicker by heating it to extreme temperatures and hammering it on his anvil.

The brief biography of Calvin Barber in the *Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut* says that his father died when he was seven years old and shortly after he was "bound out" to his sister Rosetta's husband Capt. Jacob Pettibone "to learn the trade of mason and stone-cutter." He educated himself well enough that he became "a successful teacher in the common schools," it says.<sup>10</sup>

Calvin Barber was responsible for much of the stone construction in the Simsbury area in his day. John Poisson hired Barber in 1795 to build the foundation and the chimney for his new house on the north side of Hop Brook. This is the house called the Hendrick Cottage that is now on the Simsbury Historical Society grounds.<sup>11</sup> In 1802 Barber had the contract with the State of Connecticut to build a 12-foot high stone wall around New-Gate Prison.<sup>12</sup>

His son, Lucius I. Barber, M. D., wrote in his book *A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury* that in 1803 Calvin Barber, in company with Thomas Case and Benjamin Ely, built a gin distillery on Hop Brook. It stood a bit upstream from present-day Hopmeadow Street on the north side of the brook just across from one of Barber's brownstone quarries. The historian also wrote:

[He] furnished building stone, of every description, such as underpinning, door and window sills, jambs, mantels and hearths for a large extent of country. In this business he employed a large number of men. It was by him that during the period above named [the early nineteenth century] most of the head-stones in the Simsbury burying ground, and many in the neighboring towns, composed of red sand-stone, were manufactured and erected.<sup>13</sup>

When the Farmington Canal was being constructed, Barber built, in 1826, the stone arch culvert that channeled Hop Brook under the canal's aqueduct. When he decided to retire in 1836, he advertised that his three quarries were for sale. Two were on Hop Brook, with one "adjoining the Farmington Canal." The canal provided easy transportation for the stone, he stated, and it had been used in buildings as far away as New Haven. The third quarry was "about one mile north of the Meeting House," he wrote.<sup>14</sup>

Isaac Ensign did not include a militia rank for Calvin Barber in his account, but Lucius Barber reported that his father was the colonel who commanded the 18th Regiment of the Connecticut Militia when it was called upon during the War of 1812 to send a detachment to aid the in the defense of New London's harbor. He also served Simsbury as a Justice of the Peace.<sup>15</sup>

As already mentioned, Capt. Jacob Pettibone was a stone cutter and mason. He was Isaac Ensign's wife Lurranah's brother and he had one of the largest accounts in the book. Working with stone was just one of his many endeavors. His account shows 160 charges for sharpening chisels and he was the only customer for whom Ensign made these tools. Each small chisel cost a shilling. Ensign also made him a stone auger and wedges weighing seven pounds for four shillings and eight pence, basing the price on the weight of the iron used.

A charge in 1786 to Pettibone for work done for Jared Barber and a credit to Barber in 1794 for an order on Pettibone indicate that the two of them had business dealings. Ensign's customer Mr. James Russell seems to have been building a house in 1794 for which Pettibone provided a stone step. He paid Ensign for hauling it to the house.

Several other peoples' accounts indicated that they were stone cutters, too. Stephen Harrington had chisels sharpened 100 times between January 1799 and March 1800, as well as many other repairs to stone working tools. Calvin Barber is mentioned in his account, so they may have worked together.

James Bodwell had chisels sharpened 125 times between 1787 (when he reached the age of eighteen) and 1801. Other typical charges were for "mending Seven wedges to Split Stoans" and "Sharpening Stoan ax." He was the son of Ensign's customers Benjamin Bodwell and Mary Martha (Woodbridge) Bodwell. Mrs. Bodwell was the sister of his customer Lieut. Theophilus Woodbridge.

Benajah Case, Jr. had chisels sharpened eighteen times, as well as a stone auger, in 1798 and 1799. With these few charges, it's most likely Case was cutting stone for his own use and not for profit. He was married to Ensign's customer Michael Moses's granddaughter Anna, with whom he had ten children. After his wife died in 1831, he moved to Ohio.<sup>16</sup>

James Fletcher had chisels sharpened seventeen times in 1797. His small account included charges for sixteen brads and shoeing his horse four times. No payment was rendered. He was Lurannah Ensign's nephew, son of her sister Martha (Pettibone) Fletcher, who was married to Ensign's customer John Fletcher.

### Brick Makers in Simsbury

In addition to needing stones for their houses' foundations, people needed bricks to build their chimneys. At least one person in the town, Luke Case, produced bricks. Ensign charged him twelve shillings in 1800 for "Irons for his majhean to make Brick." The source of the clay he needed for his bricks may have been near the center of town. Historian John Ellsworth reported, "A clay pit was formerly worked just south of Hop Brook at the northwest end of Woodland Street."<sup>17</sup>

Capt. Abner Pinney also might have manufactured bricks, since Ensign gave him a credit of £2.15.2 in 1798 for 2,300 of them. This credit is an unusually high amount for Ensign and he may have needed the bricks for his own purpose, since none of his customers are recorded as purchasing any from him. It's possible, however, that such a purchase might only have been recorded in the customer's account book. Capt. Abner Pinney went west in 1803 with the Scioto Group that founded Worthington, Ohio. His brother, Captain Aaron Pinney, was also Ensign's customer.

Two other people received credit for bricks. They may not have made them, but were merely



passing on bricks that they had received as barter. He recorded giving his brother-in-law Capt. Jacob Pettibone two shillings in 1792 for 100 bricks and he gave Grove Case twelve shillings, six pence in 1801 for 500 of them. With the exception of his sister Betsy, Grove Case's whole family were customers. They included his father, Capt. Job Case, and his brothers Job, Jr., Ariel, Luke, Frederick and Friend. His sister Joanna, was married to customer Israel Case, his sister Lucy to customer Amasa Humphrey, and his sister Asenath to customer Asa Humphrey.<sup>18</sup>

### Shingle Makers in Barkhamsted and Simsbury

Ensign noted that two of the customers who offered him shingles as barter were "of Barkhamsted," namely Ozias Case and Lt. Richard Adams.<sup>19</sup> Mr. Case proffered 3,000 white pine shingles and was credited with £2.8.0. Lt. Adams received eighteen shillings for 1,000 pine shingles.<sup>20</sup> Although shingles were often hand riven from right-sized log blocks, the great number suggests that these men used a shingle mill.

Several Simsbury men also seem to have been manufacturing shingles in the 1790s. David Pettibone, Lurannah Ensign's brother, was given eighteen shillings credit for 1,000 and Moses H. Cook eight shillings for 500.<sup>21</sup> Chestnut shingles were credited to Shubael Hoskins, Jr. who was given eighteen shillings for 1,000; the same prices as pine. Asa Case got credit in 1792 for 1,058 chestnut shingles and in 1795 for 1,750 "poor Chestnut shingles" with no price quoted either time. Perhaps the men worked it out during a subsequent reckoning. He became Ensign's son Zebe's father-in-law.

Only three men seem to have bought shingles. Ensign charged John Burdell eight shillings in 1784 for 1,140 "old shingles." Timothy Terry was debited eighteen shillings for 1,000 pine shingles in March 1799 and came back a year later for 3,000 more for £2.14.0. Notice that Ensign charged Terry only as much as he had paid Pettibone, so made no profit on the transaction. Capt. Joseph Humphrey was charged a shilling, eight pence for 100 pine shingles. One of the more curious notations in the account book is the Ensign's statement in a reckoning with Gen. Noah Phelps that he had "lent" the general 1,000 pine shingles.

By Mary Jane Springman

Future issues of the *Simsbury Free Library Quarterly* will tell of more occupations that Isaac Ensign's customers had. For instance, numerous men ran sawmills, gristmills and many other types of mills, one man composed church music and three women were seamstresses.

### Notes

1. Frederick Humphreys, *The Humphreys Family in America* (New York: Humphreys Print, 1883), 125. The family's genealogical information in this article is mostly taken from this work. At times, author Humphreys cites the records of Rev. Samuel Stebbins, pastor of the Congregational Church in Simsbury from 1777 to 1806 and a customer of Isaac Ensign's whose account will be featured in a future article.

For a tanner in colonial Simsbury, see "John Case of the Fourth Generation in Simsbury, Part 2: With Shoemaking Underway, His Tannery Opens" in the Summer 2013 issue of this publication. Case established his tannery in 1743.

2. Very few early Simsbury tax lists exist today, but Henry E. Ellsworth (1878-1950) owned several lists made between 1778 and 1811. In 1935 Mr. Ellsworth had photocopies made and they are available in a bound volume in the Simsbury Town Clerk's office.

3. The *Gentleman's and London Magazine*, November 1757 (Dublin: Printed for John Stuart, 1757), 606.

4. The Sturbridge Village web page [collections.osv.org/object-12-38-16](http://collections.osv.org/object-12-38-16) shows a circa 1790-1810 sidesaddle with a pommel composed of two horns that would hold a woman's right leg. This is the type the Humphreys made. The Wikipedia "Sidesaddle" article shows an antique saddle with the addition of the horn credited to Jules Pellier that secured a woman's left leg.

5. Humphreys, 192 footnote.

6. Probate records can be found in "Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999" online through Ancestry.com. All references to wills, inventories and other probate matters in this article were found on this site.

7. Abiel Brown, *Genealogical History: with Short Sketches of the Early Settlers of West Simsbury, now Canton, Conn.* (Hartford: Press of Case, Tiffany and Company, 1856), 146.

Continued on page six.

## Family and Customers in Simsbury Center

Isaac Ensign's house just north of Simsbury Cemetery was torn down in 1896, but these houses in Simsbury's center that belonged to members of his family and to his customers remain today. Some have been significantly altered.

741 Hopmeadow Street (Northwest Community Bank) Capt. Jacob Pettibone, Lurannah Ensign's brother, built this home about 1790.

800 Hopmeadow Street (Simsbury Historical Society) Gen. Noah Phelps's brother Elisha Phelps built the Phelps house in 1771. Elisha Phelps died in 1776 and eventually the general and his son Noah A. Phelps occupied the house. The Hendricks Cottage is the house that John Poisson built in 1795 on the north bank of Hop Brook. It was moved to the Simsbury Historical Society grounds.

809 Hopmeadow Street (United Methodist Church annex) Ezra Pratt built the house in 1783 and Benjamin Farnham bought it in 1784. Another customer, Asa Barber, bought it in 1797.

835 Hopmeadow Street (ABC House) Ariel Ensign, Isaac Ensign's son, built this house in 1812.

920 Hopmeadow Street (Berkshire-Hathaway) Titus Barber built this house in 1812. It has an ell that is part of the original house on the site built in 1690.

930 Hopmeadow Street (Starbucks Coffee) Rev. Benajah Roots built this house about 1762. Customer Calvin Barber bought it in 1800.

937 Hopmeadow Street (Dowling & Dowling) Capt. Joseph Humphrey built this house in 1800.



### Simsbury Free Library Board of Trustees

James P. Flynn  
Chairman

Tara D. Willerup  
Vice-Chairman

Martin Geitz  
Treasurer

Mary Jane Springman

Arthur House

Thomas J. Donohue

Michael Paine

Richard Curtiss Jr.

Matthew Schoenhardt

Gregory M. Jones

*Continued from page five.*

8. Noah A. Phelps, *History of Simsbury, Granby and Canton, from 1642 to 1845* (Hartford: Press of Case, Tiffany and Burnham, 1845), 160, 163.

9. Humphreys, 188-191.

10. *Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut....* (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1901) 1526.

11. Abigail Eno Ellsworth, comp., *A Record of Some of the Old Homes of Simsbury*, unpublished 1936 study made by the Abigail Phelps Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, pages 200, 203.

12. *Commemorative Biographical Record*, 1562.

13. Lucius I. Barber, *A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury* (n. p.: The Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, Simsbury, Connecticut, 1931), 351, 389, 390-91.

14. *Hartford Courant*, February 29, 1838, 4. Carl Walter, historian of the Farmington Canal, contributed this source.

15. Phelps, 163.

16. Ruth Cost Duncan, comp., *John Case and His Descendants* (Simsbury: Simsbury Free Library, 2000), 83-84.

17. John E. Ellsworth, *Simsbury: Being a Brief Historical Sketch of Ancient and Modern Simsbury, 1642-1935* (Simsbury: The Simsbury Committee for the Tercentenary, 1935), 109.

18. Duncan, 19, 47.

19. This man may be either the Richard Adams who was married to Rosanna Terry, daughter of customer John and Martha (Gridley) Terry, or the Richard Adams who married Miriam Case in February 1793 in Barkhamsted. For information on the first, see *Notes of the Terry Families of the United States of America....* compiled by Stephen Terry (Hartford: by the compiler, 1887) 251. For the second, see Duncan, page 44. The same book has information on Ozias Case on pages 16 and 40.

20. Twelve pence equal one shilling and twenty shillings equal one pound.

21. Moses H. Cook's account has only one debit and one credit. Ensign shod Cook's horse in February 1798 and he paid with the 500 chestnut shingles a year later. Both transactions were eight shillings.

---

## Donations to the Simsbury Free Library Collection

The board of trustees and staff are most grateful for all the generous donations that our members and patrons have made to the library's archives and general book collection during the past several years. Many thanks to all of you!

### New Materials in the Archives

The Eno Center for Transportation donated its William Phelps Eno Collection. Among other things, this collection includes many images of the interior and exterior of William Phelps Eno's residence in the Saugatuck section of Westport, Connecticut, which has been demolished. It also includes a bible and a 1753 bill of lading. Eno Center for Transportation vice president Paul Lewis arranged for the collection to be given to the library.

Norita C. Sampieri donated the Robert Andrew Kerr, Sr. Collection. Mrs. Sampieri is Mr. Kerr's great granddaughter. The collection includes letters, ledgers, photographs, and many other items. Of special note are a silver tea set which was a gift from Antoinette Eno Wood and a 1963 oil painting by L. Quinn of the Kerr family farm at 200 Firetown Road in Simsbury.

Matt Maguire donated the John B. McLean and Ella B. McLean Collection. Rev. John B. McLean was appointed to the Simsbury Free Library's board of trustees by Amos R. Eno when he founded the library in 1874. Rev. McLean served as the librarian for its first ten years. He also founded the Simsbury Academy and the McLean Seminary, a boarding school for girls. This collection includes letters, photos and many books from his personal library including seventeen volumes of an early edition of the works of Sir Walter Scott and a small book about Mary Payne McLean (1820-1906). It also has Rev. McLean's own report card from 1873.

Simsbury Public Television donated twenty-three VHS tapes covering various events in Simsbury from 1988 to 2002, including Memorial Day and Veteran's Day celebrations.

### New Archival Items on Display

Newbold LeRoy donated *Smith's Map of Hartford County, Connecticut, from Actual Surveys by E. M. Woodford, C.S., West Avon, published by H. & C. T. Smith, engraved and printed by Wagner & McGuigan, Philadelphia, 1855*. The four-by-six-foot map that hangs on the library's wall gives the location of many residents' houses and businesses in the towns in Hartford County in 1855, including Simsbury.

Charlotte Bacon donated a map of Bloomfield that was created in 1935 by Dorothy Goodrich Spalding for the town of Bloomfield's centenary celebration.

Mike Long donated a print of a painting by Jack Flynn of the Ensign Bickford-Company headquarters on Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury. The artwork was used on the company's 175th Anniversary posters in 2011. The print is number 316 of the 500 that were printed.

### New Books in the General Collection

Simsbury's Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated thirty-seven DAR Lineage Books and forty-seven books and published materials related to Simsbury and other Connecticut towns and their history. Of special note is the book *Catalogue of the 1st, 2D, 3D, 4th and 5th Regiments, Connecticut Volunteers* published in 1861. These signatures are in the book: Mrs. George C. Eno, Jess H. Lord, and Juliette Goodrich.

Ann Ancari, who volunteers at the library, donated *History of Lancaster*, published in 1843, and *Guide to Research in York & Adams Counties, Pennsylvania* by Robert Barns, published in 1996.

Frances Vincent donated six genealogical books related to the Vincent family focusing on descendants of Levi Vincent (1676-1763), Charles Vincent (1663-1713), and Dr. Michael Vincent (1784-1875).

---

## Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

On Martin Luther King Day in January 2021 Simsbury High School students and their advisors unveiled the memorial now on the library's lawn that commemorates the summers of 1944 and 1947 that Rev. King spent in Simsbury. He along with other students from Morehouse College came to town to earn tuition money by working in the tobacco fields. The lack of segregation in the North that he experienced for the first time greatly influenced the course of his life.

A committee of Simsbury High School students, under the direction of Social Studies Chairperson Richard Curtiss, formed in 2010 to research Martin Luther King's experiences in Connecticut, a part of Simsbury's history. Out of their findings they created a nationally recognized documentary about Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s time in Simsbury. The committee adds new members yearly and continues to be active. Recently they welcomed ten teenagers enrolled in the Discovering Life Skills program in Hartford. They viewed the film and the memorial and had lunch together at the library.

## Simsbury Free Library Quarterly Name Index

Are your ancestors' names or Simsbury people you remember to be found in the back issues of the Simsbury Free Library Quarterly? Our genealogist Alison Watson Maston has been working diligently on a name index and has completed it through Volume 16 (Fall 2009) with more to come each month.

To access the digital index on the library's website, go to green bar at the top of the home page and put your cursor on "SFL Quarterly." The link you need will drop down. Click on it to get to the name index. We hope you will find what you need, but if you don't please give us a call or email your questions:  
(860) 408-1336, [simsburyfreelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:simsburyfreelibrary@gmail.com)

## A Party for Members in the Fall

Watch for your invitation to a wine and cheese gathering for members to view the Farmington Canal exhibit that Carl Walter is constructing. Before then, you are welcome to drop in to see it as it progresses.

## FIRST CLASS

**SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY**  
Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library  
749 Hopmeadow Street • P.O. Box 484  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
860 408-1336 E-mail: [simsburyfreelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:simsburyfreelibrary@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.simsburyfreelibrary.org](http://www.simsburyfreelibrary.org)  
Hours : Tuesday & Thursday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Second & Fourth Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
And by appointment Closed major holidays.  
*Mary Jane Springman, Editor, SFL Quarterly*

