



Norwalk Museum News

NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPRING EDITION 2026



NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Visit Our Museums



Mill Hill Historic Park

Tour historic 18th and 19th century buildings, the 1767 burying ground and a colonial herb garden. Located at 2 East Wall Street, Norwalk.



Norwalk Historical Society Museum

View exhibits, artwork, and artifacts showcasing Norwalk's history. The gift shop offers a distinctive array of merchandise. Located at 141 East Avenue, Norwalk, on the City Hall campus.

Visit our Website



- Info on hours and tickets
- Calendar of events
- News about our exhibits
- Research materials

www.norwalkhistoricalsociety.org



NORWALK ^{est. 1651}
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Reenactors Bring History to Life



how to handle a musket, set up camp, and sew clothing and uniforms. Keep reading to meet some of these remarkable people.

Who wouldn't want to listen in as George and Martha Washington discuss the decisions they made during the Revolutionary War? Who wouldn't want to watch the 6th Connecticut Regiment set off to raid Sag Harbor in 1777 or be there when the Marquis de Lafayette stopped in Norwalk in 1824 while on his famous "Farewell Tour" of the United States? These experiences—and more—are presented by *reenactors*, people who learn about and then appear as figures from the past. A hallmark of reenactors is accuracy, which requires both familiarity with a particular time period and the ability to learn skills such as



Eric Chandler

Historical Society board member and Lieutenant Emeritus of Sheldon's Horse, 2nd Regiment Light Dragoons, Eric Chandler has participated in American Revolutionary War living history since 1974. Portraying infantry, light infantry, whaleboat raider, and mounted and dismounted dragoon has allowed him to immerse himself as a student of the roles he has undertaken, to represent them in battle reenactments, and to bring educational programs to public schools. "It is one thing to learn from a book in a classroom environment," Chandler notes. "But part of my teaching method is to have students wear the coat and helmet of the dragoons or some of the equipment soldiers carried. They feel the weight and texture, providing more of a tactile 'wearing the skin' experience. In our public programs, we can engage in one-on-one conversations that often result in remarks to the effect of 'I never knew that! They didn't teach us that in school.' People who thought of history as dull develop a greater appreciation for the subject."



Historical Interpreters Present American History

Dr. David Gibson



Dr. David Gibson believes his love of history began when he was about twelve and recalls seeing Civil War battle reenactments in Virginia when visiting his grandparents. At Nathan Hale Middle School in Norwalk, he teaches American History. But he also walks in the steps of Pvt. Peter Black who served with the 6th Connecticut Light Infantry Regiment during the Revolutionary War. Every reenactor in the 6th Connecticut takes on the identity of a real soldier and works to convey a true feel for the time period. Gibson notes that with reenactors “you get the living experience.” He adds that history can be learned not only in the classroom, but also by seeing what it was like in the fields, in the woods, or on a march. Observers of the Regiment can smell the powder when a musket is fired, see what a camp looked like, and observe the process for melting lead over an open fire.



Michael and Maria Grillo

Michael Grillo started reenacting over thirty years ago. He has worked with units that fought with the British as well as those that were part of the Revolution. As a couple, the Grillos have portrayed George and

Martha Washington. These appearances benefit from extensive research and work in order to get everything right. Michael says that his tailoring skills have helped tremendously as he has crafted many of Washington’s uniforms himself. Maria notes that appearing as Martha Washington generates a host of questions about women’s roles, their clothing, and their social class. At one appearance, she discussed everything from Martha Washington’s bookkeeping skills to her elaborate flowered dress and stockings held up by garters.



Earth Day on the Green

Saturday, April 25, 12:00-4:00pm on the Norwalk Green

The Historical Society will be present along with over 75 other exhibitors and vendors. Enjoy live music, food trucks, kids’ activities, and tree plantings. Mill Hill Historic Park will be open for visitors!



Rendezvous with Rachel Revere

Saturday, May 17, 2:00pm at Mill Hill

Judith Kalaora, owner and principal portrayer of History at Play will tell the story of Rachel Revere, wife of Paul Revere, and her perilous attempt to reunite her family in the immediate aftermath of her husband’s famous ride in a city occupied by hostile British forces.