



For Immediate Release
PHOTO ATTACHED
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One Square in Avon's Heritage Quilt History-
The Derrin Family of West Avon
Lecture: "Walls Do Talk: Archeological Dig at the Derrin Farmhouse"
Saturday, December 5 at 7:00pm at Avon Senior Center
Return of artifacts to Society expected!

The next event in a multi-part lecture series organized by the Special Projects Committee of the Avon Historical Society is entitled "Walls Do Talk: Archeological Dig at the Derrin Farmhouse." It will be presented by former State Archeologist, Nicholas Bellantoni, on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00pm at the Avon Senior Center, 635 West Avon Road. It is being co-sponsored by the Center.

Nicholas Bellantoni was Connecticut's State Archaeologist having just retired in 2014 after 27 years. Among his credentials, he was called in to examine the remains of the crew of the civil war submarine, the H.L. Hunley. Mr. Bellantoni and his team conducted a dig at the Derrin Farmhouse in 1995 and will enlighten the audience with his findings and will return the artifacts found to the archives of the Avon Historical Society.

This lecture series, "One Quilt in Avon's Heritage Quilt History", sets the stage for understanding the lives of the town's early settlers, how Avon became a prosperous farming community, its growth and place in Connecticut's history. The Derrin family was just one of the 'squares of cloth' of families who settled in West Avon and contributed to this community's economic and residential success. Their story, starting with coming to Farmington/Northington in the mid-1700s, the building of three homesteads along West Avon Road (two extant) representative of typical town farms up until the mid-1800s, to their eventual further migration, parallels that of many of this town's early settler families that created the *heritage quilt* that is Avon today.

NOTE: The first lecture entitled "Early Settlers in Nod/Northington," scheduled for early September, was postponed and will be rescheduled in January or February. It will be presented by Lisa Johnson, Executive Director of the Stanley Whitman House museum in Farmington.

The remaining lectures will be:

- “From Bedrock to Bedroom Community – The Evolution of Avon” on Saturday, March 5th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. the Avon Senior Center/Community Center, 635 West Avon Road, presented by Robert M. Thorson, Professor of Geology at UCONN Storrs campus.
- “One Quilt Square in Avon’s Heritage Quilt” is the final lecture, with speaker to be announced, on Saturday, June 4th, 2016 at the Alsop Community Room of the Avon Free Public Library at 1:00 p.m. A companion exhibit entitled “A Heritage Quilt - The Derrins of West Avon” focusing on the Ammi Derrin family, ca. 1850, as an example of a typical West Avon farm family, will be on display outside the Local History Room. The Derrin Farmhouse, operated by the Society, ca. 1810 will be open for tours on Sundays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. June 4th through the end of September.

More details on the last three lectures will be advertised as the time nears. The lecture series is sponsored in part by the Avon Senior Center/Community Center and the Avon-Canton Rotary Club. For the lecture series Grand Finale, residents of the Farmington Valley are invited to attend a special event to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the deed signing of the Derrin Farmhouse land on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at the Derrin Farmhouse, 249 West Avon Road, Avon. Details on that event will be forthcoming.

Avon Historical Society mission is to identify, collect, utilize, publish, display, promote and preserve the history and heritage of Avon.
www.avonhistoricalsociety.org

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