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DM | DANBURY MUSEUM



Autumn colors on the museum campus.

Hello Friends!

November is quickly approaching and that means a whole host of holidays, gatherings and festivities is ahead.

This coming Saturday, November 2, at 2pm, the Danbury Museum is pleased to welcome Bethel Historian Patrick Tierney Wild to present his program on the Danbury Loyalists, "Having Joined the Enemies of the United States..." which features much new scholarly research. The event is FREE and open to all, full details below!

And on Saturday, November 16, at 1pm, singer Tom Damiani joins us in Huntington Hall to kick off the Festive Season! This event is FREE and open to all and co-sponsored by Synergy Home Care of Danbury.

If you are looking for appetizer, cocktail or side dish inspo, don't forget that we have digitized many old cookbooks on our website and there are some real gems! Visit [the Digital Archives page](#) and scroll to the bottom for the cookbooks. It's okay if you stop to browse our Danbury Fair archival files, or look through the 1970s city budgets, or Rev War info along the way!

We wish you a very happy and healthy month of November and we look forward to welcoming you to one of our events!

DM | DANBURY MUSEUM

DANBURY MUSIC CENTRE

Presenting Sponsor

Sponsors

Western Connecticut State University

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Hopkins School

Mary Wooster Chapter, DAR

The Danbury Museum & Danbury Music Centre invite you to join our local, national, and international artists for a once in a lifetime celebration of Charles Ives's 150th birthday!

Concert schedule, details, and ticketing @ CharlesIves150.org

Thank You!!

IVES 150

October 16-20, 2024

Celebrating Charles Ives!

A MASSIVE thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, or supported the Danbury Museum and Danbury Music Centre's #Ives150 concerts, tours, and programs. What a spectacular 5 days of events! Thank you to Frederic Chiu and William R Harvey for the first night of wonderful music with their performances of Ives's Sonatas for Violin and Piano. On that beautiful Saturday morning, Larry Deming and Michael Bank played a beautiful little concert as we gathered at the gravesite of Charles and Harmony Ives (and so many other Ives, White, and Brewster family members. Lon Kaiser and Jennifer Kayner Honan gave a splendid performance of Ives songs in period costume in our Marian Anderson Studio--to a full house! And finally, on Charles Ives's actual 150th birthday, a splendid concert from the Danbury Symphony Orchestra followed by the grand finale concert, Louise Bessette performing Ives's Piano Sonata No. 2 (Concord, Mass., 1840–60). We had world-class musicians and performances, the perfect way to commemorate Ives's 150th birthday.

Special thank you to Danbury Cultural Commission, our presenting sponsors. And our sponsors: Western Connecticut State University, Savings Bank of Danbury (soon to be Ives Bank), the Amber Room Colonnade, William Baker and Elizabeth King, Donald & Patricia Weeden, Hopkins School, the Rizzo Companies, and the Mary Wooster Chapter CT DAR.

And finally, a special thank you to our partners, the Danbury Music Centre for helping us stage all this Ivesian programming!

Mark your calendars for #Ives151 coming next October!

Saturday, November 2, 2024 @2:00 pm

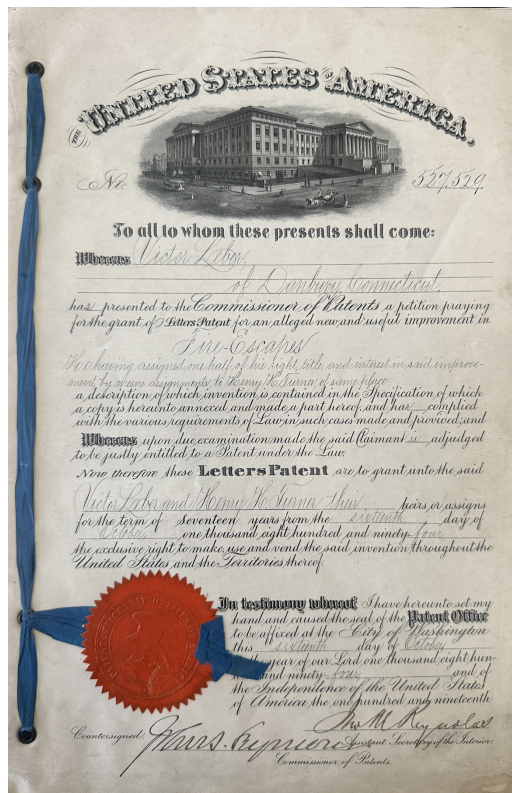


Patrick Tierney Wild @ the Danbury Museum!

Join Bethel town historian Patrick Tierney Wild as he explores the role of Danbury's significant loyalist population during the American Revolution and explains how these staunch subjects of the king navigated the complexities of what some have called America's first civil war. The presentation entitled "Having Joined the Enemies of the United States..." will share newly discovered information from original documents on events related to the British attack on Danbury in April 1777 and the loyalists' role in its execution. Anecdotes long shared in sources such as Bailey's History of Danbury will be analyzed for their validity and accuracy. The topic of what became of Danbury's loyalists after the war, as well as the lingering grudges held by both patriots and loyalists, will be discussed. The role of the religious sect known as the Sandemanians, who are such an essential part of the hat city's past, played a fascinating part in the conflict of loyalties, and specific followers who were often persecuted for their beliefs will be highlighted.



Arnold Turner's patent for a Hat Pounding Machine.



Victor Leber's patent for a fire escape.

Danbury Has Talent!

by Dr Thomas MacGregor

What do the following items have in common: “A retractable seat belt restraint,” “control of cloud computing,” “car voice system with improved safety features,” “heat transfer of fluids,” “coatings for metal surfaces,” “cybersecurity of containers,” “machine learning of health-care data,” “spring-biased hinges,” “updated financial credit data system for consumer use,” “wrong-way driving detection,” “envelope stacking for mail packages,” “automated traying of finished mail,” “hand-held gas vapor detectors,” “overfill detectors,” “object transformation for computer programming,” “fusion proteins,” “purification methods for gases,” “collapsible containers,” “sonic infusion of liquids,” “clinical syntheses of new drugs,” “electrostatic clamps,” “selective deposition for semi-conductors,” “cooling assembly for fuel cells with monitoring,” “tools with locking mechanisms,” and “UV lithographic methods”?

A search of the United States Patent and Trademark Office(www.uspto.gov) database shows that they are all titles for patents and patent applications of inventions by Danburians in the first 9 months of this year.

With its foundation in the Constitution (Article 1, Section 8), the U.S. Intellectual Property system (the first patent act), signed by George Washington in 1790, developed alongside a growing and changing nation. For a typical patent application, there is a company called “applicant” and individuals called “inventors.” To be an inventor, the individual must have supplied unique and critical information to the application. Typically, the inventor is a member of a team within the company. Therefore, many of the recent patents and applications listed above have multiple inventors who worked on a team residing in Danbury and/or surrounding towns. Of note, Danbury is 2500 miles from the media-reported brain-trust of Silicon Valley, but Danbury has a longer history of producing intellectual property.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is a division of the Department of Commerce. It operates solely based on fees collected and not taxpayer dollars - a unique approach for a federal agency. One can easily perform a search by using the patent number provided on an object to determine what it should look like and how it should work. Many later patents are improvements on previous patents. As an example, seat belts have been available for decades but possibly could use an improvement as cars have developed and become more sophisticated.

Many schools in the Danbury area participate in “Invention Conventions” to compete against other schools in Connecticut. Perhaps, if you have an idea, you should search the USPTO database for a neighbor skilled in the art of inventing. Afterall, might US patent #5,443,036, “Method of Exercising a Cat,” (www.freepatentsonline.com/5443036.pdf) use some modifications and improvement. Or maybe, your dog would prefer an automated, paw-operated bacon dispenser. Good ideas can come from reading interesting patent applications and dreaming about the possibilities.

After 33 years at Boehringer Ingelheim, Dr. Tom (UConn ‘85) retired to his garden and piano.



Some of the hatting-related letters patent within the Danbury Museum's archival files.



James Clavell

A Master Navigator

by John O'Donnell

Last September the entertainment world was stunned by the number of Emmy awards won by the FX series *Shogun*. This drama of feudal Japan had eighteen wins out of twenty-five nominations. The incredible success of this show took many people by surprise. It did not take me by surprise at all. This was because of the creative genius behind the novel on which the series was based. The author of the novel was James Clavell (1921-1994) who was an Australian born, British raised and educated, naturalized American writer, screenwriter, director, World War Two veteran and prisoner of war. I think that a large part of the reason for Clavell's success after World War Two owes much to his time as a prisoner of war. The influence that this time had on his life and career was enormous. We will look more closely at his time as a prisoner of war and what it meant for his successful post-war careers.

Clavell was born in Sydney, Australia on October 10, 1921. He was the son of Commander Richard Clavell, a Royal Navy officer who was stationed in Australia from 1920 to 1922. Commander Clavell was posted back to England when James was nine years old. James Clavell was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School. This constituted the extent of his early education.

When World War Two broke out Clavell joined the Royal Artillery and received an emergency Regular Army commission as a Second Lieutenant on May 10, 1941. Even though he was training for desert warfare, he was sent to Singapore. Unfortunately, the ship taking him there was sunk during the voyage. The survivors were picked up by a Dutch ship going to India. The ship's commander insisted that the survivors be dropped at the nearest port to fight in the war despite having no weapons. Clavell was shot in the face and captured in Java in 1942. He was first sent to a local prisoner of war camp before being sent to Changi Prison in Singapore. After the fall of Singapore, Changi became notorious for its role as a prisoner of war camp for Allied soldiers captured by the Japanese. Many of these prisoners were subjected to brutal treatment and forced labor and a significant number died from malnutrition, disease, and mistreatment. Clavell's time in Changi was a defining moment in his life.

In 1981, Clavell said about his time in Changi: "Changi became my university instead of my prison. Among the inmates there were experts in all walks of life--the high and the low roads. I studied and absorbed everything I could from physics to counterfeiting but most of all I learned the art of surviving, the most important course of all." This is not to say that his time in Changi was not without great hardships. Prisoners were fed a quarter pound of rice per day, one egg per week and occasional vegetables. Clavell believed that if the atomic bombs had not been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he would not have survived the war. Clavell did not talk about his wartime experiences with anyone, not even his wife, for fifteen years after the war. For a time he carried a can of sardines in his pocket at all times and fought the urge to forage for food in rubbish bins. He also experienced bad dreams and a nervous stomach that kept him awake at night. So, he did not come out of Changi unscathed. But the most remarkable thing for Clavell was that he was not embittered by his imprisonment, nor did he want to seek revenge against the Japanese and instead respected their culture and history and wanted to communicate this respect in some as yet unknown fashion.

After the war Clavell enrolled at the University of Birmingham where he met April Stride, an actress, whom he married in 1949. He would visit her on the film sets where she was working, and he became interested in film work. Over a long apprenticeship he was successful as a screenwriter (*The Great Escape*), producer and director. He was very successful in all three facets of film work. But in 1960, the Writer's Guild went on strike and Clavell had time on his hands. So he began writing a novel, *King Rat*, based on his experiences in Changi. The book was published in 1962 and made into a movie in 1965. This novel describes the struggle for survival of

American, Australian, British, Dutch and New Zealand prisoners of war. One of the three main characters, Peter Marlowe, is based upon Clavell. *King Rat* was the first book published of Clavell's sweeping series, the Asian Saga. Clavell had found his true calling as a novelist specializing in Japan and its culture and including a wider view of Asia as well.

In 1975 Clavell published the novel for which he is best known, *Shogun*. It is the third of six published books of the Asian Saga series. It is an historical novel which is based on actual events. It narrates how European interests and historical conflicts within Japan brought about the Shogunate restoration. The novel gives the reader a detailed description of the samurai military caste which will be a continual force in Japanese history until the end of World War Two. Even after the atomic bombing of Japan, the military still wanted to continue the war in the samurai spirit of never surrendering. The main character, the pilot of the Dutch ship *Erasmus* is John Blackthorne. He is tossed into a world of rivalries and a dangerous game of who will become Shogun (central ruler) of Japan. Blackthorne must quickly learn many things about Japan quickly if he is to survive. This book, which took Clavell three years to research, captivated readers and also was successfully made into two miniseries which became huge hits in their own right. The book sold six million copies worldwide by 1980 and its great length (1152 pages) did not deter readers because of the power of the narration.

Clavell is a character in both *King Rat* (Peter Marlowe) and *Shogun* (John Blackthorne). These characters are thrown into a maelstrom of confusion (language, politics, history) which they must quickly solve in order to survive. Henry Smith, editor of *Learning from Shogun*, described the book as a "virtual encyclopedia of Japanese history and culture, somewhere among these half million words, one can find a brief description of virtually everything one wanted to know about Japan." Clavell has succeeded beyond his wildest expectations. Not only had he survived like Marlowe and Blackthorne, but he had also prospered as well. Clavell reported that the ruler of a Middle Eastern petrostate offered him a full oil tanker for a novel that would do for his country what *Shogun* did for Japan.

John O'Donnell first became a history devotee while in elementary school. He was raised in Brooklyn and frequently went to Prospect Park which has a Revolutionary War monument. He was hooked!



Tom Damiani kicks off the Festive Season at 1pm on November 16!

Tom Damiani Kicks off the Festive Season @ the Danbury Museum, November 16!

Tom has been in the music business for over 50 years. He was lead singer in "Thin Ice", a Connecticut-based band in the 70's and was lead vocalist with the group "Friends", a wedding and special event band that was together for over 40 years.

Tom has always prided himself on his dependability and attention to detail. He is always open to suggestions on how to make the occasion more enjoyable and memorable. Tom utilizes state of the art sound equipment and will play at a volume appropriate for the venue and audience.

This event is on Saturday, November 16 at 1pm, FREE and open to all, and co-sponsored with [Synergy Home Care of Danbury](#).

THIRD-SPACE DANBURY

At Mountainville

NOVEMBER 02
TIME: 3:30PM-5:00PM

LOCATION:
MOUNTAINVILLE AVE, DANBURY, CT
(BACK SIDE OF ROGER'S PARK)

"Mountainville Community Connect: Discover Third-Space Danbury."

The concept of a "Third Space" is rooted in the idea of providing a communal area for regular, low-pressure interactions that build trust and community ties. In today's fast-paced world, these spaces are essential for bridging diverse backgrounds and fostering meaningful relationships.

Join us at Rogers Park (Mountainville Ave. side) to Learn about Third-Space Danbury at Mountainville! This event is the perfect opportunity to discover more about the project and what's in store. Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, this is a great chance to connect with others and learn about the exciting things happening in Mountainville.

Refreshments will be served. Don't miss out on this informative and fun event!

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