

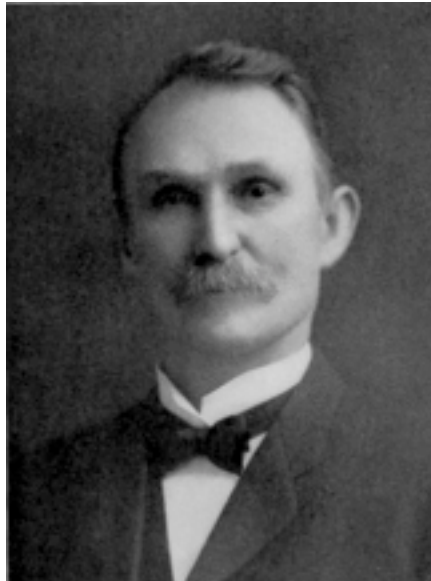


From: "The Pacific Monthly," Portland, OR, Sept., 1911.

## The Romance of Astoria

by **T. T. Geer**,  
Ex-Governor of Oregon

The interesting exposition at Astoria, this summer, which celebrates the founding of this charming town one-hundred years ago, opens up a wide field for speculation to the student of the history of the Northwest as to what agency ... was most potent in "saving Oregon" from ultimate British domination and ownership... No doubt it would be sufficiently near the fact to assume that no one person ever saved Oregon... The man who diligently searches the records... will discover that... **John Jacob Astor** saved Oregon in 1810-11. **Jason Lee** saved it again in 1834, and **Marcus Whitman** performed the same gracious act again in 1842, when he made his heroic and extremely perilous journey "to the United States," in the winter month, for the purpose of inducing a further and immediate immigration to the Oregon Country.



It is likely that in the course of human events Oregon was destined to become a part of the United States... **Capt. Gray** made a first step, perhaps *the* first step, toward final American ownership of Oregon when he crossed the Columbia River bar in 1792. **Lewis** and **Clark** yielded liberally of their time and exertions... seven years before **Astor** sent his expeditions here in the interest of financial

[continued on page 10]

**T. T.<sup>8</sup> Geer** ID# 1504-G

[ Photo courtesy of <http://www.theragens.com/> ]



**John Jacob Astor** [Reprinted with permission Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA]



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## President's Message: Come to the 2007 GFA Reunion! Ledyard, CT June 22, 23, 24

"Come One, Come All call. Fill out the registration form that is an insert in this newsletter! Make your motel and travel reservations soon and send in your fees so that plans can be made for the number of attendees! See you all here in Ledyard in June!" **Ken Geer**, President

Historic Places Tours, Speakers, memorabilia, and sharing with each other a wealth of family history.

## 2007 GFA Reunion: Ledyard, CT - June 22, 23, 24 - Ledyard Congregational Church, Ledyard, CT



### 21 June: Thursday Evening-Officers, Trustees

- 6 to 9 pm: One of the church meeting rooms (BYO food)
- o Informal meeting of officers and trustees

### 22 June: Friday

- 9 am to 12 noon: Library
  - o Officers, Trustees, and Book Committee meeting
- 10 am to 12 noon: Fellowship Hall-General Membership
  - o Pick up information packages
  - o Set up memorabilia, genealogical charts, books, other items for viewing
- 12 noon to 2 pm: Fellowship Hall
  - o Lunch provided by Ladies Auxiliary of Ledyard Congregational Church
  - o **Gene Geer (VP)** to give brief welcome and introduction of the reunion schedule
- 2 to 4:30 pm: Fellowship Hall
  - o **Ken Geer** will give his formal welcome to the reunion
  - o **David Geer** talks of his career; Movie showing his wood-chopping exploits
  - o **Raymond Geer** talks about his Eastern Pequot heritage.
- 4:30 to 6 pm: Fellowship Hall
  - o Visiting and viewing memorabilia items, sale of 1923 Geer Genealogy reprint.
- 6 to 7:30 pm: Fellowship Hall
  - o Dinner: Pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert (\$8.00 ea)
- 7:30 to 8:30 pm: Fellowship Hall
  - o Talk by author **Richard Radune** –Local history, Pequot Plantation; Q&A
- 8:30 pm on: Fellowship Hall
  - o Visiting

## Suggestions for Places to stay for Reunion 2007

### *Blocks of Rooms reserved:*

#### **Mystic Hilton-** 1 (860)-572-0731

20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT -- 5 rooms reserved for Thurs., 10 rooms reserved for Sat. & Sun. @ \$139 per night.

#### **Days Inn at Mystic** 1-(860)-572-0574

55 Whitehall Ave., Mystic, CT -- 40 rooms Reserved Thurs. –Sat. @ \$122.08 incl. tax per night

#### **Mystic Marriott** at Groton, CT , 1-(860)-446-2600

625 North Rd. (Rt. 117) -- 20 rooms reserved @ \$219 per night for Sat. & Sun.

#### **Hampton Inn** 1-(860)-405-1585

300 Long Hill Rd., U.S. Rte. 1, Groton, Ct  
10 rooms reserved Sat. & Sun. @ \$116 per night

CAMPING: (No reservations pre-arranged)

#### **Strawberry Park Resort** Campground

Preston, CT—nearby  
1-(860)-886-1944

*These accommodations are nearby the reunion, but we cannot hold rooms for you. First come, first served.*

**Abbey's Lantern Hill Inn**, 780 Lantern Hill Rd, Ledyard, CT 06339 (I-95 Ex. 92) (860) 572-0483 \$\$\$ Only 6 rooms (some with fireplaces). Breakfast.

**Almost in Mystic Mare's Inn B&B**, 333 Col. Ledyard Hwy., Ledyard, CT 06339, (860) 572-7556. (Handicapped accom.) (I-95 Ex. 89). Owner has several cats that are very friendly. Pets per arrangement. Five rooms. Full breakfast. \$\$.

**Stonecroft Country Inn**, 515 Pumpkin Hill Rd., Ledyard, CT 06339. (I-95 Ex. 89). Country estate, listed on National Register of Historic Places with 13 fireplaces, restaurant. 10 rooms. \$\$\$\$ Full breakfast. (860) 572-0771. (Handicap. access.)

**Two Trees Inn**, 240 Lantern Hill Rd., Ledyard, CT 06339. (I-95 Ex. 92), Country-style inn, 280 rooms and suites, pool, fitness room. Restaurant. \$\$\$\$ Shuttle to casino. (800)-FOXWOODS. (Handicap. access.)

## 2007 GFA Reunion: Ledyard, CT - June 22, 23, 24

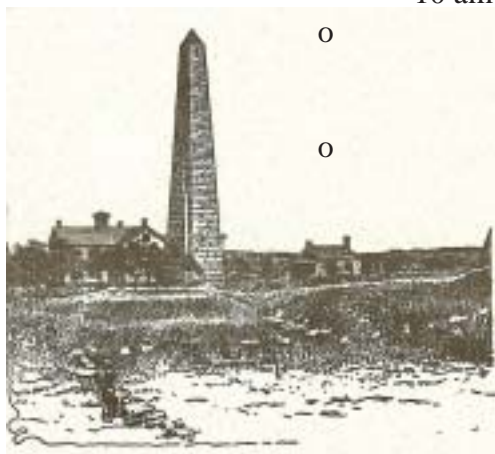
### 23 June: Saturday

- 8:30 to 9:30 am: Fellowship Hall
  - o Continental breakfast (\$5.00 ea)
- 9:30 to 11:30 am: Fellowship Hall
  - o GFA General Business Meeting
  - o Election of new officers, appointment of new trustees
  - o Discussion about an invitation to GFA for a 2010 reunion in Scarborough/Portland, Maine.
  - o Getting ready for this afternoon's visit to Geer/Gear/Gere sites
- 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
  - o Pick up bag lunch or quick lunch at the church (\$5.00 ea)
- 12:30 to 5 pm
  - o Visits and tours of the G/G/G sites (Bus and car pooling.)
  - o Up-Down Sawmill, Geer historic houses, Geer Hill School House, Underground railroad location, Cemeteries, Tavern (with reenactors), the Bill Library.
- 6 pm to 7:30 pm
  - o Dinner: "**Anna Geer's** famous Baked Beans," with ham (or without), potato salad, cole slaw, roll, Strawberry Shortcake (\$10.00 ea)
- 7:30 to 8:30 pm: Three short talks
  - o **Sam T. Geer:** Tracing our G/G/G ancestry through DNA
  - o **Scott Bill Hirst:** The Famous Geers (and variations)
  - o **Ginger August.** What is known about **Sojourner Truth** and **Miss Gear/Geer.**
- 8:30 to 9:00 pm
  - o Musical entertainment by **Joe LoPresti**
- 9:00 pm on - Visiting

### 24 June: Sunday

- AM Breakfast on your own
- 10 am on:
  - o Meet at Fort Griswold in Stonington, CT for a tour (map provided)
  - o Visit the Up/Down Sawmill in Groton, Nathan Lester House (see the **Lucy Geer** dress,), Bill Library.

*Fort Griswold in Stonington, CT*



### Our Speakers



**Richard Radune.** Local historical sites in the area not to be missed, with their relevance to the Geer/Gear/Gere family history, and discussion of his book on local history.



**David Geer.** My career in wood chopping and axe throwing, as well as what I know of **George<sup>1</sup> Geer(e)** and **Uncas.**



**Ken Geer.** The discovery of the **Robert<sup>2</sup> Geer** gristmill site, it's recovery and that of an older stone. Also discussions of the new sites on the tour.



**Ginger August.** What is known about **Sojourner Truth** and **Miss Gear/Geer.**



**Scott Bill Hirst.** Some famous American descendants of Geer/Gear/Gere lineage, and the RI/CT border changes, gravesite locations.

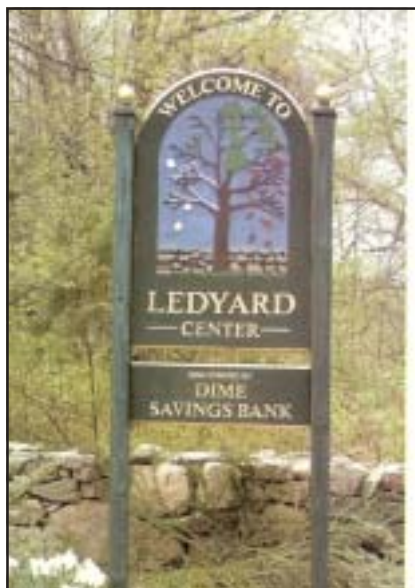


**Sam T. Geer** will discuss the Geer DNA Project—it's beginnings/implications.



**Raymond A. Geer** will discuss the Eastern Pequot tribe and the Geer relationship to this Native American group.

## 2007 GFA Reunion: Fun for the Entire Family !



Welcome home to Ledyard, CT - So much to see and do !



*The Allyn House*



*Denison Homestead*



*Joseph Geer Homestead*



*Avery Memorial*

**The Reunion Committee** has planned to provide you a rich experience and appreciation of your heritage. Those who could attend Oct. '06 meeting, seated (l. to r.) **Gene & Pansy Geer, Eleanor & Richard Radune**. Standing: **Ginger August, Ken Geer, Sue (Geer) Downes**.



*Up-and-Down Sawmill, Sawmill Pk, Ledyard.*



*Thomas<sup>5</sup> Geer Grave  
[ID# 176]*



*Gurdon Bill's Station,  
Ledyard, CT. This Country Store and Stagecoach Way Station  
dates from 1816*



*Meribah Killiam Geer Grave,  
(Thomas<sup>5</sup> Geer's 1<sup>st</sup> wife)*



*Yale Boathouse, Gales Ferry, CT*

## Family Places to See & Memorabilia To Share



*Geer Hill School*



*Nathan Lester House, Ledyard, CT*



*Whitehall Park  
Nature Conservation Area*



*Avery House*



*Sparky Lyle bobblehead  
—he is Geer descendant*



*Geer Drug Co. of S.C.*



*Ken Geer's  
house lintel*

# Trustees, Officers, and Region Map

## Region 1 GFA Trustee:

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## Region 8 GFA Trustee:

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 M54 4L8



## Officers of the Geer Family Association

*President* ..... **Ken Geer**, [elizabethgeer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elizabethgeer@sbcglobal.net)  
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*Vice President* ..... **Eugene W. Geer**, [pansegene@monmouth.com](mailto:pansegene@monmouth.com)  
 558 Beers Street, Hazlet, NJ 07730

*Secretary* - ..... **Louis A. Dunlap**, [l.a.dunlap@comcast.net](mailto:l.a.dunlap@comcast.net)  
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*Newsletter* ..... **Donna Lea Gear Loper**, [dloper3@comcast.net](mailto:dloper3@comcast.net)  
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*Archives* ..... **Emily Gere**, [emily.gere@stanford.edu](mailto:emily.gere@stanford.edu)  
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*Sales Chairperson* ..... **Jean Creznic**, [jcreznic@pa.net](mailto:jcreznic@pa.net)  
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 (717) 545-1839

..... **Audrey Masalehdan**, [ajgm@masimex.com](mailto:ajgm@masimex.com)

*Registered Agent*..... **George M. Geer**,  
 175 Lake Shore Dr., Colchester, CT 06415-5114

## GFA Dues and Fees Schedule

Regular and Associate Life Membership fee ..... \$250  
 Regular and Associate Annual fee for fiscal year 2003 ..... \$25  
 Annual Gift Membership by a member \$5 less than annual fee  
 Three-year Membership ..... \$60  
 Three-year Gift Membership by a member ..... \$50

**Note:** Our expenses keep going up and the paper work of yearly dues paying is increasing. For these reasons, your Board wants to encourage three-year memberships. Please help your GFA organization in this way and avail yourselves of no increase in dues for the next three years.

## GFA Web Site

Don't forget to check-in on the Internet at: <http://www.geerfamily.org>

# The GFA General Store

## Sale Items and Fees (within USA)

*With exception of newsletters, international orders will be charged additional applicable airmail rate.*

**Dues and Newsletter**..... \$25 per year, covering the period from July 1 thru the following June 30. Includes three newsletters: Fall, Spring, and Summer issues. **\$20** one year special offer for paid members giving gift membership(s). **Life Membership: \$250.00**

**College of Arms Report**:..... A report on the Geer Crest to date. 11 Pages ..... Price: **\$2.00**

**1926 Geer Family Association Meeting and Membership List**:..... Price: **\$1.00**

**Current GFA Membership Roster**:..... Arranged in numerical order by Zip Code..... Price: **\$4.00**

**Individual, Family Group and Pedigree** ..... Blank forms for recording genealogical information: ..... Price: free **for \$1.00** postage.

**Revised Index of Surname Geer in History of Town of Ledyard, CT.** By Ginger August. 4 pages. .... Price: **\$2.00**

**Geer Crest**: A good Xerox color reproduction of the Geer Crest ( 8 1/2 x 11 ), as seen on the cover of the 1991 supplement. Price: **\$3.00**

**Annotated Bibliography of Books on Geer People**: Including books with chapters devoted to G/G people/places/events.

..... Prepared by Ginger August. About 58 pages, updated annually. .... Price **\$8.00**

**Historical Sketch and Genealogy of George and Thomas Geer from 1621 to 1856**: By James Geer, printed by Elibu Geer in 1856.  
**Hard Cover**

**Members** ..... **\$30** + \$3.00 Postage & handling (p& h)\*

**Non-Members** ..... **\$55** + **\$3.00** p& h\* (includes one year GFA membership)

**Reprint of 1923 Geer Genealogy by Walter Geer**: Hard, imprinted cover, hand bound.

The basis of current George and Thomas Geer descendants' ID # system. 460 pgs, 32 photos.

**Members** ..... **\$40** (Postage & handling included)\*

**Non-Members** ..... **\$65** (Postage & handling and one year membership included)

**Reprint of 1991 Supplement to '23 Genealogy**: 950 pages, complete indices of

George and Thomas descendants, w/ appendices. 3 hole drilled, loose-leaf, coverless, shrink-wrapped.

**Members** ..... **\$35** (Postage & handling included)

**Non-Members** ..... **\$60** (Postage & handling and one year membership included)

**NEW! A Second Supplement to the 1923 Geer Genealogy (CD-ROM Only)**: Full text search of George and Thomas descendants.

**Members** ..... **\$35** (Postage & handling included)

**Non-Members** ..... **\$60** (Postage & handling and one year membership included)

**USE THIS FORM TO ORDER ANY OF THE ABOVE ITEMS** (Postage & handling included for each item, unless otherwise noted).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Note: Minimum purchase for Non-Members is \$20.00

**Send Completed Form and Payment to: Louis A. Dunlap, GFA**  
Sec.-Treas., 58 James Road East, Durham, CT 06422

Email and/or Phone number where we may contact you with any questions: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Price Ea. =	Sub- total	Item Description
_____	Check yrs	\$_____	<b>Dues and Newsletter</b> @ ____One Year (\$25) ____Two Years (\$40) ____Three Years (\$60)
_____	\$250.00	\$_____	<b>Life Membership</b> @ \$250 per person
_____	\$2.00 ea	\$_____	College of Arms Report @ \$2.00 ea.
_____	\$1.00 ea	\$_____	1926 Geer Assoc. Meeting & List @ \$1.00 ea.
_____	\$4.00 ea	\$_____	Current Membership Roster @ \$4.00 ea.
_____	\$1.00 ea	\$_____	Individual, Family Group & Pedigree @ \$1.00 ea. Members only
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_____	\$20.00 ea	\$_____	<b>Special Gift Membership</b> @ \$20.00 for one year given by paid Members
			If more than one Gift Membership is to be given, please attach a separate sheet with additional names/addresses.
<b>Grand Total: \$</b> _____			

## Geer Place Name



*Home of Rezin<sup>6</sup> Geer [ID# 941-G] & his 2nd wife, Delia (Epes) Geer, in Candor, NY. Photo sent by Jeanne Freireich of Columbus, OH. See also Family Photo Album centerfold, this issue, for more on this family.*

### THE GEER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

**President:** Ken Geer  
23 Thomas Rd  
Ledyard, CT 06339

**Newsletter Chair:** Donna Lea Gear Loper  
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**The Geer Family Association.**

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