



Windsor Historical Society

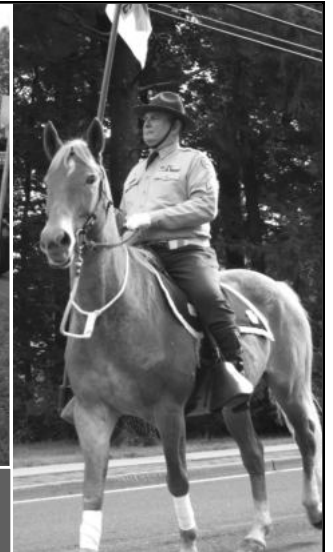
News



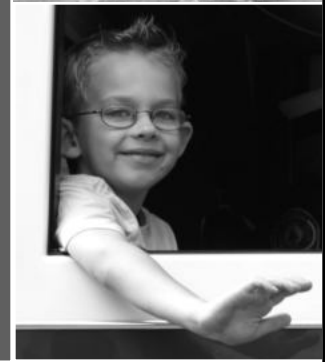
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Windsor Celebrates 375 years !



WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Mission

The Windsor Historical Society aims to inspire public awareness and appreciation of the diverse peoples, places, and events that contribute to Windsor's evolving history. We preserve and interpret Windsor's historical record through active collecting, research, exhibitions, programs, and communications in the belief that an understanding of history can provide individuals and communities with connections to the past, a sense of belonging in the present, and responsibility for the future.

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Director's Message

Christine Ermenc, Executive Director

Community Heartbeat

On November 21, Windsor Historical Society held a pre-holiday auction to raise funds for our programs next year. Our goal was \$10,000. Auction committee members John Berky, Ruth Fahrback, Carissa Fusco, Dave Gillette, Dottie and Bob McAllister, Mike Rabbett, and Colette Yeich acknowledged that achieving that goal might be difficult, given that this was our first auction in awhile and given the state of the national economy. Nonetheless, we plunged ahead and response was enthusiastic. We received offers of a cottage in the Netherlands, a beach house in North Carolina, and a vacation home in the Berkshires. Generous donors gave exquisite artwork and jewelry, baskets of goodies for children and pets, and more. Food and wine for auction night were donated. Ed Nadeau of Nadeau's Auction Gallery volunteered to be our auctioneer.

With any event, publicity is key. Facilities Coordinator Jack Alberti photographed all the auction items and listed them on our website for all to see. We wanted our auction to be classy; Administrative Assistant Connie Thomas designed a program book and beautiful certificates calculated to draw the attention of eager bidders on auction night. Since our own meeting room could not accommodate tables filled with auction items, refreshments, and an audience of any size, the Windsor Public Library provided us with their community room. Library Director Gaye Rizzo volunteered her time for the evening so we would not have to pay security overtime charges. Dottie McAllister, Curator Erin Stevic, and I organized and packed items up for the move to the library. Jack Alberti, John Berky, and Bob McAllister safely moved truckloads of delicate objects with no loss or breakage.

At the library, the auction committee and new board member Laura Kahkonen worked to make auction items sparkle and the room look warm and welcoming. Holiday greens and bows did wonders! Laura Toal, Lisa Sullivan and her niece Grace busied themselves in the kitchen preparing trays with chocolates, lemon bars and shortbreads. The registration team headed by Educator Julia Baldini and including Florence Barlow, Lori Grillo from Windsor Federal Savings, and Jill Padelford fired up their computers. Curator Erin Stevic's team of runners included Julian Barlow, Librarian Barbara Goodwin and her husband Charlie, Ruth Jefferis, and Sue Warner-Prouty. By 6:30 p.m. we were finally ready for guests to arrive.

And arrive they did! Ed Nadeau who had just run an auction for New Britain Museum of American Art was amazed at the level of bids on silent auction items. The momentum continued as the live auction began, with friendly bidding wars driving prices up. The auction included two "holiday spirit" items. We asked for donations of \$80 for

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Dr. Horace Hayden: “Father of the Dental Profession”

Barbara Goodwin, Librarian

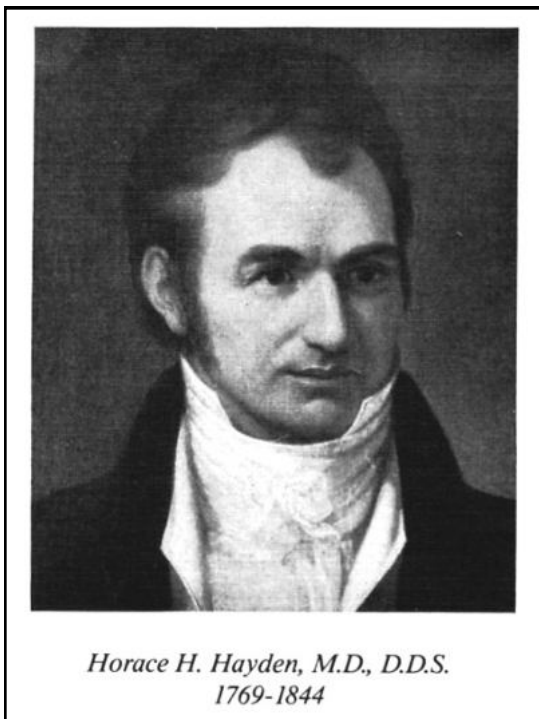
The grounds of the Society’s Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee House have a new feature for visitors to see the next time they stop by. Thanks to the resources of the James and Ella Burr McManus Trust, the Hartford Dental Society’s memorial to Dr. Horace Hayden was refurbished during the summer of 2008 and reinstalled in a more accessible location in the Palisado Green historic area.

Dr. Horace Henry Hayden (1769-1844), a native of Windsor, Connecticut, is regarded as a pioneer in the field of dentistry and a leader in the 19th century movement to establish a formal system of dental education. During his lifetime, dentistry evolved from the crude techniques of the barber-surgeon into a scientifically based, modern profession. Hayden played a prominent role in the formation of a dental college, a professional society of dental surgeons, and a journal of dental science.

Hayden was born in the Hayden Station area of Windsor. He was the son of Thomas and Abigail (Parsons) Hayden and a direct descendant of William Hayden, a founder of Windsor. Young Horace

helped his mother take care of the family farm at Haydens while his father was away serving in the Revolutionary War, and she instructed him in his early schooling. As a teenager he spent several years travelling at sea and then returned home to learn his father’s building trades. In 1795 he consulted with Dr. John Greenwood, George Washington’s personal dentist in New York City, and was so impressed with Greenwood’s skills and methods that he began the study of dentistry himself.

By 1802 Hayden had established a successful dental practice in Baltimore. He continued to study medical anatomy and surgery as well as teaching classes in dentistry. Believing dentists should receive formal, systematic medical education, Hayden spent decades advocating for the establishment of a school for dental instruction. In 1840 he co-founded the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery with Dr. Chapin Harris and served as its first president and its first professor of dental surgery. The college was the first institution to award the D.D.S. degree and is now part of the University of Maryland.



The original Hayden Memorial stood on Windsor Heights from 1910-1941. WHS Collections.

Continued from page 3, Horace Hayden

In 1906 the fledgling Hartford Dental Society began soliciting contributions towards a memorial to honor the Windsor birthplace of Dr. Horace Hayden. It was installed in 1910 on the lawn of 1228 Windsor Ave. and dedicated with a day-long celebration on the grounds of the nearby Tunxis River Canoe Club. The original monument was a pillar of colonial red brick eleven feet high with bronze plaques and topped by a lighted globe. By 1941 the monument had fallen into disrepair, and it was dismantled during the widening and reconstruction of Windsor Avenue. One of the bronze tablets was mounted on a boulder and installed at the intersection of Hayden Station Road and

Palisado Avenue, adjacent to the William Hayden Memorial Stone marking the home site of the first Hayden family in Windsor.

During Windsor's 375th year, the stone and tablet were again cleaned and restored by the Hartford Dental Society. A leaflet highlighting the accomplishments and significance of Hayden's career is now available in the Windsor Historical Society lobby, and a number of medical and dental instruments from Hayden's time period can be seen in the doctor's office at the Chaffee House. In its new location the Horace Hayden Monument will continue to honor the life, work, and leadership of this foresighted Windsor native.



Dental keys were used to extract diseased teeth. Devices like this one were used until the end of the 19th century.

WHS Collections



New Book - *Ballad of Mack Street*

Dr. Dan Mack has written an illustrated soft-cover book describing the many events depicted in his paintings. These paintings lovingly depict his childhood growing up on Mack Street in the 1920s and 1930s. Read about Priscilla, the family cow; bootleggers; catching shad in the Farmington River; firing brick kilns; and naughty siblings at the dinner table. Buy your \$25 copy in our museum gift shop; order one on our website; or send an additional \$5 for postage, and we'll mail one to you.

Remembering Rainbow Park

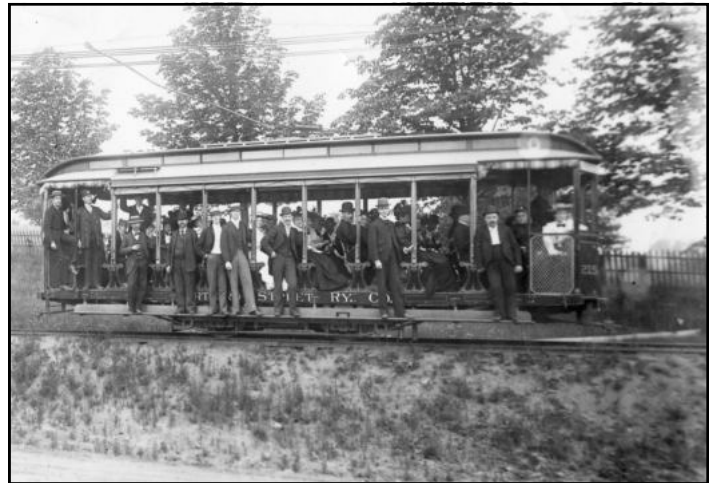
Erin Stevic, Curator

On an early August morning in 1899, four hundred working-class mothers and children boarded trolley cars at Hartford City Hall destined for a day of fun at Windsor's Rainbow Park. Although the cars were uncomfortably full on that sultry summer day, the passengers buzzed with excitement about the trip, which they received for free through the *Hartford Courant's* annual Fresh-Air Excursions program. They chattered, laughed, and sang songs to pass the hour-long trip from Hartford to the park eleven miles to the northwest. On the way, the urban families saw fields of tobacco nearly ready for harvest, market gardens overflowing with produce, and animals grazing in fenced pastures. They passed the businesses on Windsor's Broad Street, turned up Poquonock Avenue, and crossed the Farmington River near Poquonock's busy textile and paper mills. Their anticipation grew as the trolley entered the village of Rainbow, where the park was located at the terminus of the trolley line. The families entered the park, walking paths shaded by chestnut and maple trees. They waded in the Farmington River and took short boat rides. They played on the swings, ate lunch on scattered picnic tables, and danced to orchestra music in the pavilion before returning to Hartford tired but in high spirits.¹

The *Hartford Courant's* Fresh-Air Excursions program was one of the many clubs and organizations that made Rainbow Park an annual destination during the late 1890s. Rainbow businessmen Henry Snow and Samuel Vernon opened the park in 1895, the year the Hartford Street Railway Company completed the trolley line to Rainbow. The park was open daily during the summer with twice-weekly evening dances at the pavilion. Local families and church groups frequented the park, but much of its visitation came from outside Windsor. The trolley company promoted the park as a weekend destination for Hartford families, drumming up ticket sales for a trolley line otherwise used by weekday commuters and shoppers. "In the summer the trolley cars that ran by [my] house on Poquonock Avenue during the weekends were full of people from Hartford going to Rainbow Park for fun and relaxation," recalled John (Jack) Kraucunas. "The park had a large covered pavilion for dancing and eating, an area for swimming and a cleared area for playing games...It was a shouting and singing group of people when they made the return trip to Hartford."²

Rainbow Park was at its peak when the Fresh-Air Excursions program visited it in 1899, but the park slowly declined over the next twenty years. As more people purchased automobiles, fewer rode the trolleys to work and play. New amusement parks featuring motorized rides also took business away from older parks with fewer attractions. In the early 1920s the Farmington River Power Company began planning for the Rainbow Dam, a hydroelectric dam that would power the Stanley Works Company of New Britain, Connecticut. The power company purchased the park, and Stanley Works employees were the last to picnic and dance there in 1925. Later that year the shade trees were cut down, the buildings removed, and parts of the site were flooded as construction began on the dam. The trolley tracks that once transported hundreds of people to the park were used to haul machinery. Like thousands of other end-of-the-trolley-line parks built in the 1890s, Rainbow Park was only a memory by 1930.

Do you have photographs of Rainbow Park you would like to share with the Society? Please contact Librarian Barbara Goodwin (bgoodwin@windsorhistoricalsociety.org) or call 860/688-3813 for details.



Windsor Sunday School group on their way to Rainbow Park, ca. 1900. Detail of a photograph from the WHS Collections.

1. Families selected for the trip were members of the Union for Home Work in Hartford. Several Fresh-Air Excursions to Rainbow Park were offered annually during the late 1890s. "Mrs. Sluyter's '400.'" *The Hartford Courant*. September 20, 1899. p.8.
2. Kraucunas, John. "Poquonock, Connecticut." *Windsor Storytellers II*. Town of Windsor, Connecticut, 2000. p. 150.

Museum Educator News

Julia Baldini, WHS Educator

Windsor's 8th grade Encounters Windsor's Colonial History

Bundled up in heavy jackets and mittens, Sage Park 8th graders absorbed local history with an all-day field trip to Windsor's historic district on November 14th and 21st. The field trip was coordinated by Society Educator Julia Baldini, the 8th grade Social Studies teachers, and Social Studies Coordinator as part of the Connecticut History curriculum standards. Students were greeted by Society educators and rotated between six different stations to study architecture, social practices, artifact analysis, and local history. At the First Church students viewed the interior and exterior architecture of the church and discussed the role of the congregation in Windsor's settlement and Connecticut history. In Palisado Cemetery, students examined the details of 17th, 18th and 19th century stones and the stories they tell. While viewing the John Mason monument on the old Palisado Green, students learned about John Mason and the controversy surrounding the monument and its placement on the Green. While touring the 1758 John and Sarah Strong House, students examined what life might have been like for a typical colonial family. They used Artifact Analysis worksheets to examine several of the items in the house to discover their place in history. In the *Faces of Windsor: 1850 to Present* and *Four Centuries of Windsor History* exhibitions in the Windsor Historical Society, students used photograph analysis and artifact analysis techniques to learn a bit more about their community. Their trip also included a stop at the locally famous Bart's Drive-In where they enjoyed lunch and a visit with Mayor Trinks. The Society thoroughly enjoyed having the 8th graders visit all day and are looking forward to making this trip an annual event!

Special thanks go to Mary Phelan, Alicia Willett, Gary Dennis, Dar McCormick, Jim Shay, Bob Stisser, Jan Stevens and Heather Renaud for your help in making this program possible.

Something Old, Something New, Something Local - 2009 January, February, and March Programs

Why travel out of town when right around the corner are a variety of fun and educational programs for you and your family to choose from! Why wait years to notice what history is being made today? This year, the Society is introducing a **Film Series** and discussion on local issues. In January, we'll examine similarities (or not!) between The Great Depression of the 1930's and what people are calling our current financial crisis. Or, have you always wanted to visit the society, or do some digging in our research library but can't stop by during the day? You're in luck! Starting February 5th, **First Thursdays** are returning to the Society from 4 - 7pm with free admission. Stop on in and view *The Faces of Windsor: 1850 to Present* exhibition you've wanted to see. The Society is also running a **Victorian Valentine** talk with Executive Director Christine Ermenc on February 14th. Using a kit, participants can craft their own valentine masterpiece. Are you looking for something fun to do with your children or grandchildren during **February Vacation Week**? Visit the Society where kids can make their own unique hand-dipped candle using different scents and colors. Finish the month with a presentation on the **Underground Railroad by the Nzinga's Daughters** on February 28th. Explore what poetry, stories and songs reveal about slavery, resistance movements, and the coded messages hidden within Negro Spirituals and everyday objects. Be sure to check the back side of the newsletter for specific information including times and cost.

Here at the Society, we're always creating new and exciting programs, so be sure to check our website often for updates that might have missed our newsletter deadline or sign up to receive our email updates on programs right in your inbox! Whether you are a new or existing member, make sure you introduce yourself to us at the next program; we'd love to hear your comments on what we can do to better serve your needs. We hope to see you soon!

Continued from page 2, Director's Message

school buses to bring Windsor school children to the Society. We were just overwhelmed when multiple bidders eagerly waved their cards in the air. Eight school buses were paid for that night, and we possibly missed a few bids ~ which will not happen another year! The second "holiday spirit" item asked people to sponsor Windsor families who have experienced job loss or the death of a family member this past year by buying gifts for the children. Windsor Department of Social Services runs this lovely program, called "Project Santa Elves."

Thanks to our auction donors ~ we couldn't have done it without you!

John and Sharon Ahern, Carol Alford, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Alford, All In Its Place LLC, Apricot's Restaurant, Art and Soul Gallery, Ashley's Distinctive Jewelry & Gifts, Joyce Banta, Jim and Donna Barnes, Bart's Restaurant, John Berky, Al Boehm, John Bordonaro, Brookman Plumbing LLC, Eleanor Brown, Stephen and Sally Brown, Carrie Burghoff, Doris Butler, Carmon Funeral Homes and Carmon Family, Bob Carroll, Central Street Antiques/Jamie Selig, Coldwell Bankers, Connecticut Forum, Costco Wholesale, Mark Cramer, Cutting Edge, Helen Davenport, Patty Day, Day Hill Kennels/Roger Ball, Wayne Dombkowski, Everett B. Dowe, Educational Playcare Ltd., Ellsworth Medical Association/Brian Cosker, Stephen Farley, Pamela Feehan, Jane Frelick, Geissler's Supermarkets, Mary Giffin, Dave and Ruth Gillette, Gold's Gym, Jane and Bruce Goodale, Grimshaw's, Hair Salon, Bill Harris and Charlene Li, Hartford Windsor Marriott, Hartford Wire Works Company, Len and Betty Hellerman, Andy and Claudette Johnson, Jordan Florists, Irv Kurtzman, Aubrey and Marilyn Loomis, Loomis Chaffee School, Mack Brick Company, Jim and Kathi Martin, Marsha Mason, Kate and Hugh McLean, Paul and Desley Monaco, Nadeau family, Nunes Quality Plumbing, PC Development, Lon Pelton, Dr. Larry Pennington, and Windsor Petco, David and Mary Lou Peters, Mary Phelan, Susan Tait Porcaro, Margaret Quigley, Mike and Lu Rabbett, Michael Raphael, Mr. and Mrs. Dustin Renbrook, Selig Jeweler's, Stanton Equipment, Betsy Stisser, Paul Suto, Susan Szwed, Topstone Golf Course, Susan Viner, Vitos, Charles and Lodia Vola, Priscilla Wabrek, Ann Walsh, Sue Warner-Prouty, Helen and Hans Westenberg, Susan Williams, Windsor 375 Committee, Windsor Chamber of Commerce, Windsor Garden Club, Zocco's Restaurant.

They gave us three families to sponsor and told us not to feel bad if only one sponsor could be found. As guest auctioneer Mike Rabbett described this program and asked for participants, multiple hands shot up. Not three but seven Windsor families found sponsors that evening.

In the end, we exceeded our monetary goal and raised \$14,780! Thank you! But truly, the very best part of the auction for me was sensing the heart of our Windsor community beat so strongly that night.

Volunteers

We are so grateful to the following volunteers:

Buildings: Bill Harris. **Educators:** Marsha Anderson, Jay Davenport, Carolyn Doyle, Sue Lescher, Yvonne McGregor, Heather Renaud, Dorothy Simon, Jan Stevens, and Bob Stisser; **Flowers:** Anita Mips (mums in front entryway); **Front desk/administrative:** Bill Allen, Marsha Anderson, Betsey Blaisdell, Marilyn Boehm, Doris Butler, Barbara Byczkiewicz, Elaine Colli, Bill Harris, Dee Jubrey, Laura Kahkonen, Sue Lescher, Marni Lydecker, Libby Parker, Margaret Quigley, Mary Ransom, Dot Simon, Mary Fran Sumple, Jim Trocchi, Sue Viner, Vivian Webster, Sister Baird and Sister Timothy of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints; **Laundry:** Betsey Blaisdell and Libby Parker. **Library and Curatorial:** Barbara Byczkiewicz, Elaine Brophy, Bev Garvan, Sara Hawran, Marni Lydecker, Sandy McGraw, Margaret Quigley, Susan Smoktunowicz; **Victorian Tea Party:** Paula Banasiewicz, Betsey Blaisdell, Elaine Brophy, Vikki Brown, Marie Bruhn, Ruth Budlong, Diane Burke, Doris Butler, Nancy Clark, Pat Congelosi, Veronica Craig, Claire Dallasander, Barbara Davis, Peggy Deshaies, Jean DesJardins, Evelyn Dombkowski, Colleen Dowd, Vanda Doyle, Sue Gallagher, Jan Grace, Nancy Gay, Jan Grace, Bill Harris, Janet Henderson, Kay Jaronczyk, Barbara Kittredge, Judy Locker, Barbara Mabee, Dottie McCahill, Betty McDermott, Willa Nemetz, Joyce Phillips, Janice Provost, Margaret Putnam, Claire Reilly, Rachel Rogers, Brenda Rohan, Judi Scott, Leslie and Don Smith, Pat Snetka, Elaine Traverso, Maureen Vagnini, Sue Viner, Nancy Von Hollen, Ann Walsh, Janet Ward, Mimi Weiner, Windsor Jesters, Windsor Women's Club; **United Way/Day of Caring clean-up crew from the Savings Bank Life Insurance Co.:** Antonia and Priscilla; **Town of Windsor - leaf pickup and leveling sidewalk.**

Upcoming Events at Windsor Historical Society

Unless noted otherwise, all events are held at the Society. Go to <http://windsorhistoricalsociety.org> for more programs or call 860/688-3813 to have an updated list mailed to you.

Wednesday, January 21 7 p.m.

FILM SERIES: What we do today will soon be history. Join the Society for the first of four films shown throughout the year followed with a discussion focusing on our community and issues affecting us today. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

Thursday, February 5 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

FIRST THURSDAYS: Celebrate First Thursdays with a visit to the Society during these extended hours. Light refreshments served. COST: Free.

Saturday, February 14 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

WORKSHOP AND ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: Love is in the air during the Society's Victorian Valentines talk and workshop. Discover the history behind the delicate, lacy, layered Valentines of the Victorian era with the Society's Executive Director Christine Ermenc. Using a Valentine kit, participants can craft their own Valentine masterpiece. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

Monday through Friday, Feb. 16 - 20 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK: Stop by the Society for some candle dipping. An adult must accompany all children. COST: \$10/family, \$5/adults, \$4/seniors, \$3/Society members, and \$2/students.

Saturday, February 28 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

PERFORMANCE: Nzinga's Daughters will use poetry, stories, and songs from the Underground Railroad to reveal more about slavery, resistance movements, and the coded messages hidden within Negro spirituals and everyday objects. COST: \$15/family; \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

Thursday, March 5 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

FIRST THURSDAYS: Celebrate First Thursdays with a visit to the Society during these extended hours. Light refreshments served. COST: Free.

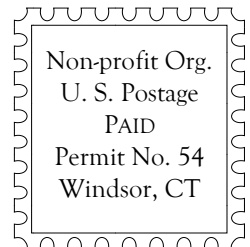
Tuesday, March 17 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT: Come and enjoy Celtic folk duo Bruce and Sandy Hedman of Tara's Thistle and learn about Irish culture in Windsor. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors & students; \$4/WHS members. \$1 discount for those wearing green!



**Windsor
Historical Society**

96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, Connecticut 06095



Windsor celebrates its 375th birthday.