



Derby Historical Society NEWS LETTER

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Derby Historical Society welcomes new executive director

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - City native Kellie German Santiago is enthused about her new position as executive director of the Derby Historical Society.

She succeeds Daniel Bosques, who served as executive director of the nonprofit for two years before returning to work at the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, where he is now the assistant director.

"I'm excited to be back home," Santiago said last week in her office in the Sarah Riggs Humphreys house located behind the David Humphreys House, 37 Elm St.

She said she has spent her first days on the job "getting situated" and planning for the upcoming school year.

The Derby Historical Society is based at the Humphreys House, birthplace of Revolutionary War hero David Humphreys.

Since 1980 the nonprofit has run an educational program for schoolchildren, *"A Day in 1762,"* that includes a tour of the 1698 house, hands-on lessons about Colonial life, and an outside tour of Ansonia's historic district.

Santiago said because of the COVID-19 pandemic it is difficult to know at this point if the program will be offered in-person.



Kellie German Santiago



The historical society seeks to hire three docents "in hopes the school program goes on this year," she said. For information, call the office, 203-735-1908.

Santiago said having grown up in an historic house in Ansonia she has always been interested in local history.

A graduate of Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa., Santiago has more than 15 years' experience in communications, marketing, and event planning.

She has worked for both CBS and NBC News affiliates, the CT Breast Health Initiative, the CdLS Foundation, Basement Systems, Inc. (now known as Contractor Nation) in Seymour, TEAM Inc. in Derby, and most recently at Hidden Acres Therapeutic Riding Center in Naugatuck.

We at *The Valley Voice* congratulate Santiago on her new position and wish her all the best.

The Mansfield House in Ansonia takes us back to our Colonial roots

By Ralph Villers

Photos by Derby Historical Society

ANSONIA - The Rev. Richard Mansfield house at 35 Jewett Street. was built in the early 1700s. Its saltbox shape exudes a classic colonial style.

The top photo was taken around 1900 in its original location on the other side of Jewett Street.

In the 1920s it was moved to its present location. The original homesite was sold to St. Joseph Church on which the parish built its sanctuary, rectory and school.

Note the undated ticket to tour the Mansfield House for 10¢

The next photo showcases the home in 1963.

The latest photo on the lower right was taken in 2019.

Mansfield was the first resident Church of England clergyman in Derby.

He lived from 1724 to 1820 and served for 72 years, a period marking the longest rectorship recorded in the United States.

Local history is so intriguing, and our area is steeped st in a rich history

As such, the Derby Historical Society's motto says what we do best:

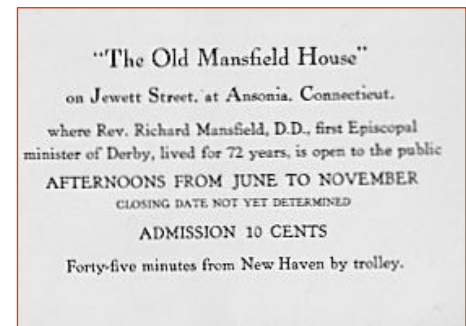
Celebrating a Proud Past and a Promising Future



About 1900, in its original location



Sign, 1963



Admission Ticket, 1930s (est.)



1963, in its current location



2019

