

TAKE OUR DURHAM QUIZ!

- 1) What was Durham's first industry?
- 2) What Essex company had a processing plant in Durham?
- 3) Can you name the four metal product manufacturers that existed/exist in Durham?
- 4) In what year was the Merriam Manufacturing Company established?
- 5) In what year was the W.A. Parson's and Company established and in what year was it dissolved?
- 6) In what year was the Durham Manufacturing Company established?
- 7) In what year was the W.A. Parson's Company, Inc. established?
- 8) What item did Merriam make for the Union Army during the Civil War?
- 9) What did Durham Mfg. produce during WWII?
- 10) What was Main Street known as in early Durham?
- 11) When was the last stage coach line in Durham (also the last in the state) discontinued?
- 12) In what year was the first speed limit posted on Main Street and what was the limit?
- 13) What trail was established between Durham and Wallingford in 1932?
- 14) When was electric service first offered in Durham?
- 15) In what year was Durham's first school built?
- 16) When was the Durham Post office established?
- 17) Why was the Durham Fair parade discontinued in 1924?
- 18) During what years was the Durham Fair not held?
- 19) Rev. Nathaniel Chauncey was the first graduate of what Connecticut university?
- 20) Who was the Durham lawyer that served as a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1784?



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| A N S W E R S T O T H E Q U I Z |
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- 1) Durham's first industry was a sawmill built in 1709. A gristmill was also built afterwards in 1709 on Mill pond and was used until 1869. (Century of Change, pg. 41)
- 2) E.E. Dickinson Company had a witch hazel plant in Durham from 1882 to 1904. Farmers would bring the witch hazel bushes to the plant for processing. (Century of Change, pg. 47)
- 3) Merriam, W.A. Parson's and Company, Durham Mfg., and W.A. Parson's Company, Inc.
- 4) Merriam's was established in 1851. (Century of Change, pg. 54)
- 5) Parson's was established 1884 and dissolved in 1918. (Century of Change, pg. 57)
- 6) Durham Manufacturing was established in 1922.
- 7) W.A. Parson's Company, Inc. was established in 1950.
- 8) The company made collapsible lanterns for the army. During WWII, Merriam made tin cans for packing grenades and boxes for ammunition and machine guns.
- 9) Durham was the largest supplier of first aid kits for the army.
- 10) Main Street was also known as Broad Street, or Great Street. (Century of Change, pg. 62)
- 11) It was discontinued in 1895 because of competition with the railroad. (Century of Change, pg. 63)
- 12) The first speed limit established in Durham was 20 mph in 1920.
- 13) The Washington Trail. (Century of Change, pg. 64)
- 14) Electric service was first offered in 1913. (Century of Change, pg. 70)
- 15) The first school was built on the green in 1722. (Century of Change, pg. 84)
- 16) The office was established in 1800. There had been irregular mail service that began in 1717 while regular service began in 1811. (Century of Change, pg. 100)
- 17) Traffic conditions on Main Street ended the parade which had been held annually beginning in 1916. (Century of Change, pg. 161)
- 18) The fair was not held in 1938 because of the hurricane. It was also not held in 1942, 1943 and 1944 because of World War II. (Century of Change, pg. 162)
- 19) Chauncey was the first graduate of Yale University.
- 20) James Wadsworth, who as major general of militia, was also the second highest ranked militia officer in the state of Connecticut.

Look for more trivia questions in the fall newsletter.

J U L Y 2 0 0 9

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Meeting Schedule: August 14th,
September 11th, October 9th and
November 13th. All meetings will be
held at 7:30pm.

The Durham Historical Society was
established in 1949.

When possible, these newsletters can
be sent in a PDF format through
email. If you would like to receive
them by email, please let us know.

M E M B E R S H I P , D O N A T I O N S A N D V O L U N T E E R I N G

Membership forms can be found by visiting www.townofdurhamct.org (go to the Community Organizations page). Membership dues help support the society's basic functions, like paying utilities, building maintenance and program funding. We do not receive support from the Town of Durham and we are not affiliated with the Durham Historic District Commission.

Donations may be made using

the space allotted on the membership form. We are a non profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Please feel free to designate where you would like your donation to go. Any extra support in addition to membership dues is always appreciated. We also accept non monetary dona-



tions, such as items for our collections and volunteer time.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us or attend one of our meetings. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping us through our renovation project and anyone who may have ideas about future exhibits and programs.

Thank you for your past, present and future support.