Hartford, CT (September 19, 2013) – The Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) in Hartford announces two seasonal events in October including a conversation about witches and a creepy look behind-the-scenes.

Should Connecticut Apologize for Hanging Witches?
On Friday, October 4 from 5:30-7:00 pm, CHS hosts a “spirited” discussion about whether or not the state of Connecticut should apologize to the descendants of those who were hanged during the witch trials that occurred in Colonial Connecticut times. Walt Woodward, State Historian of Connecticut, Lisa Johnson, Executive Director of the Stanley-Whitman House, and Richard G. Tomlinson, author of Witchcraft Prosecution: Chasing the Devil in Connecticut, will discuss the issue. The harrowing story of the hanging of witches in Connecticut continues to haunt our present-day imagination. In 2008 and 2009, bills were introduced in the Connecticut State Legislature to express regret at the witchcraft executions that occurred in Colonial Connecticut and to affirm that no disgrace should attach to the descendants of the accused. These bills died in committee, but the issue has not gone away. Appeals have continued with petitions to the Governor to take some action. What should the Governor and the State of Connecticut do?

On Saturday, October 12, CHS’ monthly Behind-the-Scenes Tours Get Creepy! Tales of vampires, corpses on ice, death portraits, and even séances haunt the storage vaults of the CHS. Come and get the history scared out of you as visitors sneak around non-public storage areas on a 45-minute guided tour. Two tours are available: 11:00 am & 1:00 pm. Tours are appropriate for ages 12 and up and include general admission. Space is limited.

Information and tickets for both programs are available at CHS.org/calendar or by calling (860) 236-5621. The Connecticut Historical Society is located at 1 Elizabeth Street in Hartford.

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About the Connecticut Historical Society (@ConnHistSoc):

Founded in 1825, the Connecticut Historical Society is a non-profit museum, library, research and education center. CHS strives to inspire and foster a life-long interest in history and ignite a passion for learning about history through research assistance, exhibitions, tours and programs for all ages. Visit chs.org or call 860-236-5621.