

Helping the Blind Touch History

Christopher Leffingwell, who died in 1810, was a patriot and merchant. His home in Norwich, Connecticut, now a museum, is a treasure trove of colonial America. Artifacts include a colonial sword, pistol, kitchen implements, lanterns, tobacco pipes and candles.

It's a place friendly to the visually impaired. Its periodic Touch of History tours allow the blind to get close to history.



A little girl touches a candle snuffer at Leffingwell House Museum.

“Most museums are out of reach of the blind. Like most sightless people, I've been dragged off by family members or accompanied friends to museums. I can't 'ooh and ah' at all these things because they're behind glass,” says Kevin Harkins of the Norwich Lions Club who advised the museum on the tour.

The president of the Society of the Founders, which owns and operates Leffingwell House Museum, is Greg Farlow; he and his wife, Cam, are Norwich Lions. Lions such as Art Mueller volunteer at the museum. The tours for the blind include narration by volunteers. “Each time we do a tour, we get suggestions and are constantly making

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