

THE PROLIFIC LIFE OF EDGAR MAURICE WOODFORD

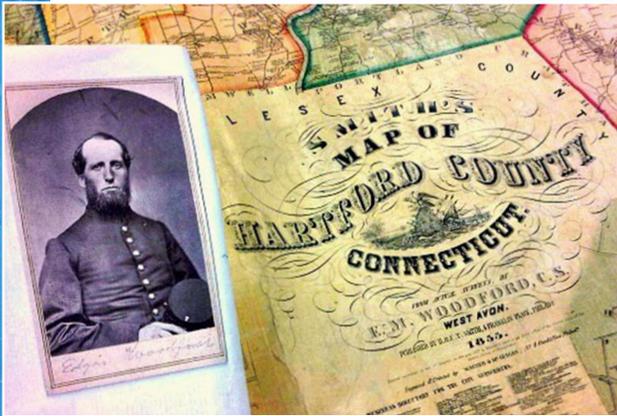
EXHIBIT: MARCH 5TH – APRIL 30, 2018

HISTORY CORNER at the AVON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

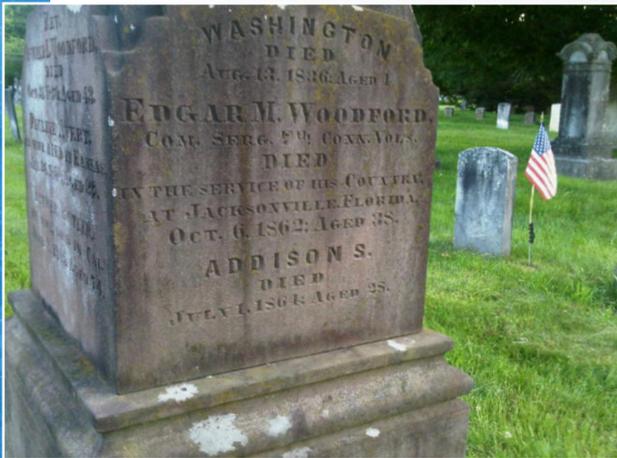
281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT 06001

PRESENTATION: SATURDAY, MARCH 31 @ 1:30 P.M.

In the Library's Alsop Community Room by **John Banks** and **Janet M. Conner**



Smith's 1855 map of Hartford County, surveyed by E.M. Woodford. Published by H. & C.T. Smith of Philadelphia, PA.



Woodford family monument in West Avon Cemetery.

Edgar M. Woodford (1824-1862) was a man engaged in the affairs of his time. He was a typical subsistence farmer as well as a self-educated civil engineer. He became Hartford County surveyor and cartographer of many maps during his career. One of the most fascinating is the "Smith" 1855 full-color map of Hartford County. It includes Avon and its environs. To show pride for his hometown, Mr. Woodford put a photograph of his own home, located at 645 West Avon Road, at the top of this map! Mr. Woodford also served the Town of Avon in various capacities as recorded in historic newspaper articles that will be in the exhibit. Not well known about Woodford was that he was an ardent abolitionist. He was one of three men from West Avon who went to Kansas in 1856 to keep it from being a slave-holding state. He was part of a group known as "The Connecticut Kansas Colony."

The exhibit will show a copy of Mr. Woodford's estate will inventory listing his surveying tools, books and maps related to his professional job. There will be an authentic CDV of Mr. Woodford when he served in the U.S. Civil War enlisting with the 7th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. This artifact is on loan to the Society by John Banks, noted local Civil War author and blogger. There is a Woodford family monument in the cemetery next to the West Avon Congregational Church, however, he is not buried there.

To find out more about this man's prolific and influential life both in Avon and in the Civil War, the public is invited to a presentation on March 31st at 1:30pm with local author John Banks and Janet M. Conner, Head of Special Projects for the Society. A reception will follow with time for a visit to the exhibit.

Interested to read more details? Visit John Bank's blog at <http://john-banks.blogspot.com/2012/09/where-does-avon-edgar-woodford-rest.html>