



THE HOURGLASS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ~ WILLINGTON

Vol. VII

Willington, Connecticut - November 1979

No. 2

TOWN ROADS MAKE HISTORY

At our September meeting, Thomas Mocko gave an interesting and informative talk about the development of the town road system in Willington. As a result of nine months of intensive research, Tom was able to plot the roads as they were surveyed. He made maps of each road, recording the dates. However, some roads were never recorded as having been surveyed and thus these have not been listed in his research. Tom's study covers 140 years, from 1730 to 1869. The following list includes the roads and survey dates:

1730-39: General Wolcott's Highway (Rt. 44); Ruby Road to a stretch of road which parallel's Rt. 320 to South Willington Road and then joining Cisar Road and on to Rt. 320, as we know it; a small piece of Village Hill Road running from Stafford into Willington; Jared Sparks Road.

1740-49: None.

1750-59: Balazs, Runpike, Parker, Mason, Old Farms, Commons, South Willington, Navratil, Fisher Hill, Glass Factory Schoolhouse, Kollar, Eldridge Mills, Village Hill (which connected to Eldridge Mills as one continuous road), Tinkerville, part of Moose Meadow Road as far as Jared Sparks, and Dennis Road.

1760-69: Turnpike Road, the rest of Moose Meadow Road to Turnpike, Rt. 32, Mihaliak, part of Polster, Trask, (which extended to Eldridge Mills Road), Burma Road, Cowles, Busse, Eldredge, Clint Eldridge, an unnamed road running between Trask south to Rt. 44 and another road running between Ruby Road and Trask in an east-west direction, Kechkes Road, an unnamed road running between Moose Meadow Road and Rt. 320 in an east-west direction.

1770-79: Luchon, Hancock, Lohse, Cemetery, Spak, Potter School, Liska, the rest of Polster which extended to the Stafford line.

1780-89: Krivanek, an unnamed road running off Ruby Road east to Moose Meadow.

1790-99: part of Spak Road and then unnamed road south to Rt. 32 near Ellington line.

1800-09: Seckar, Marsh, Blair, unnamed road in northeast section running north and southwest.

1810-19: Schofield, Adamec, Latham, Dennis, Lustig.

1820-29: none relevant.

1830-69: Depot, Trask extended to Rt. 44, Rt. 32 extended to Stafford line, Lohse Road extension.

Any roads not listed were either never surveyed or were built sometime after 1870.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

November meeting. Please note that the date of our next meeting has been changed and will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m., at the old Town Hall.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark of Ledyard, Conn. will demonstrate the art of old fashioned soapmaking, using antique tools, molds, etc., which she found in her attic years ago.

Those who have been saving fat, with which to make soap, are asked to get in touch with Harriett Marco (429-2300) by November 10th so that she can purify it before the meeting.

Work meeting. A work meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7th, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Harriett Marco on Eldridge Road. Those attending will make items to be sold at the St. Jude Christmas bazaar on November 29 and 30th.

Anyone interested in making baskets, for floral arrangements, and spice ropes are invited to meet at Mrs. Marco's home next week. Bring colorful bits of calico a ruler and scissors. Some items will also be made at home.

Spring program. On March 20th, the Czechoslovak-American Club will present a program of singing and dancing, led by Frank Tomaskovic, music director. Many of the members of this group are also members of our Historical Society. This same group recently presented a program of ethnic dancing and singing at Hall School in observance of the 61st anniversary of the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence in 1918. Approximately 100 people attended this observance program. While the room may have been cold, the spirit of the entertainers and the audience was undaunted.

Music Festival. On May 15th we plan to hold an old-time music festival. Participants are needed and help is also needed in locating some old music. Anyone interested in taking part in a fun evening is invited to do so. If you know anyone who plays an instrument or can sing, encourage them to contact Harriett Marco at 429-2300.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Membership, Nancy Desmarais has volunteered to be membership chairperson. Anyone wishing to join the Historical Society may do so by calling her at 429-1074. Membership dues were payable on September 30 for the year 1979-80. Those who have not sent in their fees should now send their payments to Mrs. Desmarais, Rt. 44. A membership form is attached for your convenience.

FUND AND FUND-RAISERS

The publication fund now totals \$47.00. This fund has been established to collect monies toward publishing the History of Willington which is now in the process of being written by Ronald Demers.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund may send a check to Mrs. Frances Daley, West Willington, Connecticut 06279. Please indicate on your check that it is for the Publication Fund.

In addition to our two publications, THE CHRONOLOGY OF WILLINGTON, and

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Funds and Fund-raisers (continued)

RECOLLECTIONS OF JOHN MERRICK, the Society has the following items for sale: note paper, decorated with views of the Willington Hill Church, the Old Button Shop at Sharpes Hill Road, the Parker House, and Moose Meadow School House. We also have postcards with 12 views taken from old snapshots dating back to the late 1800's.

Also, for sale are reproductions of a Willington map dated 1869 showing the houses and names of those living in them at the time; schools and industries. These maps have been hand painted by members of the society and sell for \$2; an unpainted version is \$1.

A limited quantity of a historical map of Connecticut, believed to be about 70 years old, printed by the Willington Map Bureau is also available for sale at \$5.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

A store was kept open on Willington Hill in the building now owned by Ms. Florence Dolesal. This store was also the post office until rural free delivery was established.

The first postmaster, Johnathan West,[?] was a man who had the good of his towns-people at heart; he delivered mail, often on horseback, and was instrumental in getting subscriptions for many papers and magazines. He would often loan good reading matter to those who could not afford the luxury. Mr. West[?] lived in the Kline house and is presumed to be the builder of that residence.

We wish to thank Elsie Hanks who has been typing the stencils; Nancy Desmarais for running off and collating the Newsletter and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kline for addressing. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Daley filled in for the Klines last September and we thank them also. We also thank Maryann Kouyoumjian for editing and arranging items.

← 70 corrections in part newsletter

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Anyone having suggestions or items they would like to see included in the newsletter please contact Isabel Weigold.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Willington Historical Society 1979-80

Individual Membership..... \$ 2.50
Family (Husband-Wife) Membership..... \$ 5.00
Corporate Membership..... \$10.00

Type of membership desired: _____

Name(s) of member(s) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please make checks payable to the Willington Historical Society, and
mail with this slip to:

Nancy Desmarais
P.O. Box 44
West Willington, Connecticut 06279

Amount enclosed _____ Date _____

I do not wish to join the Society, but would like to
continue receiving THE HOURGLASS for \$1.50 a year,
which I enclose.

DUES ARE PAYABLE BY SEPTEMBER 30. - THANK YOU.