



THE HOURGLASS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER S=S WILLINGTON

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No. 1

The Willington Historical Society presents a Special Lecture and Demonstration on Saturday, October 26, 1974 at 10:00 a.m. at the Center School, Old Farms Road.

Mrs. Burnetta Temple

Quilts: A Lecture, Demonstration and Workshop

Mrs. Temple has been teaching quilting and working at the craft for 46 years. She recently won the teacher classification category at the Storowton Fair Craft Show. She will bring a selection of quilts to illustrate her lecture and will also have a frame set up so that those attending may try quilting. Mrs. Temple will be glad to answer individual questions. Those attending are encouraged to bring quilts that they might like to learn more about. Mrs. Temple will also discuss with members plans for a special project for the society, a "memory quilt", which would be a group project.

Coffee will be served and we would appreciate a baked goods contribution to serve with the coffee. Please indicate on the enclosed form if you can contribute. Also, it might be a good idea to bring a small lunch as the meeting will probably extend beyond noon.

We have decided to charge a \$1.00 fee for those attending who are not Society members. If you are interested in attending please fill out the enclosed form and mail to: Suzanne Macko, Daleville Road, West Willington. We would like to have an idea of the number planning to be there.

732-6485

Quilts: A Lecture, Demonstration and Workshop

Name: _____

Baked Goods Contribution: _____

Phone: _____

Member: _____ Non-Member _____ (\$1.00 fee)

THE VOICE OF WILLINGTON: 1774

On the eve of the American Revolution the Town of Willington--"tho' in an Infant State"--officially cast its lot with the "Friends of American Liberty". Patriotic sentiments had been aroused throughout the colonies by British measures to cut back colonial power and expansion, and to punish the Port of Boston following the "Boston Tea Party" of December, 1773. These moves coincided with the Quebec Act which allowed Catholic worship in Canada.

1774 was a critical period when resistance to British authority became consolidated and lines were drawn between Tories and patriots. In the Connecticut Gazette, November 11, 1774, Willington joined with nearby towns in publishing a statement of its position, which had been adopted at Town Meeting, September 13, 1774.

Basing its stand on British usurpation of the Natural Rights of freeborn Englishmen for which their "worthy Predecessors had transported themselves into this then howling Wilderness of savage Men and Beast," Willington resolved:

--to "support all the Friends of American Liberty in every Way and Manner" hoping that "the united force of all will be applied with Caution and firmness, to maintain our Rights, suppress arbitrary measures and crush the arrant Whore of Rome". (3)

--to expose, avoid, and "treat...with Neglect of our Assistant and Friendship" those who threaten their rights.

--to set up a committee to correspond with other Towns and Colonies "on the interesting and important Affair of American Liberty."

--to contribute to the support of the Industrious Port of Boston, or elsewhere, that may be suffering under the Iron Yoke of Tyranny". A committee was set up to start a Subscription to collect money for this support.

Simultaneous with Willington's September Town Meeting the First Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia. What had until then been resistance on a local or colony-by-colony level was expressed, for the first time, as unified American policy. Willington seems to have been very much part of this movement.

CALENDAR

Monday, October 28, 8:00 p.m.:
Historical Society Board Meeting,
Jan Thomas' house.

November 13, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall:
General Meeting of Historical
Society. This will be a program
by Wesley Reed called "Music from
the Attic" and will include all
music and instruments.