



THE HOURGLASS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WILLINGTON

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO MEET MONTHLY

On September 10th the Executive Committee voted to institute a more active meeting schedule for the Historical Society during this Bicentennial period. Meetings will be planned for the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM unless information to the contrary is publicized. Program meetings will alternate with working meetings when committee and Society business can be carried out. All are open to anyone who is interested in attending.

This means that we will present six programs a year instead of four and that Society business will have a regular public forum. The new program committee also hopes to arrange field trips and other activities.

Our first meeting, combining both program and business functions, will be October 8th at 7:00 PM at the Old Town Hall (see program notes below). We are starting early for a special dessert hour before the meeting. Do plan to attend — and don't eat too much supper beforehand so you can enjoy our homemade pastries for dessert. Our second meeting, November 12th will deal with revising the Society's constitution so that we can become a tax exempt non-profit organization. As there may not be another HOURGLASS published before that meeting, please note this information now.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN HISTORY PROGRAM

On October 8th at 7:00 PM Miss Geraldine Novotny, a resident of Willington, will present a program which includes a history of the Czechoslovakian people in Willington. She will also have movies of her visit to Czechoslovakia and will bring examples of the national costume. Her lecture will be preceded by a dessert hour featuring traditional Czechoslovakian cakes and pastries.

There will also be a short business meeting to elect officers for the new term.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Susanne Macko, the new chairman of the Program Committee, requests that members who have suggestions for programs for the rest of the year get in touch with her at 429-7195. Suggestions for the Christmas program for our December 10th meeting would be especially welcome.

BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

The Bicentennial Commission is focusing on Spring and Summer activities to highlight Willington's role in the Nation's 200th birthday celebrations.

Publicity Chairwoman Claire Buckley said an "ethnic program" is being planned for sometime early in March which will dramatize the influence of people's from Czechoslovakia in Willington's history—

(Bicentennial Activities Con't)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 938 will be doing "something special" for the Memorial Day celebrations next year, Mrs. Buckley said; and St. Jude's Guild will hold a Colonial costume ball in May instead of its usual blossom-time dance.

All these activities will culminate in a July 4th program in which as many town organizations as possible will take part, she said. Mrs. Buckley said at this time, she is unsure whether it will be a weekend series of events or a week-long program.

The Bicentennial Commission held some "fun" programs this summer to get everyone in a celebrating mood. An old-fashioned country hoedown was held in August which included activities ranging from corn-husking to square dancing and a greased pig contest. Caroline Kasacek, 13, won a \$25 savings bond for her design of the Bicentennial emblem featured here.

Caroline's design graphically demonstrates once-famous economic key periods in Willington's history: its glass-making industry; the renowned Hall family thread mills and the button-making industry. This emblem will be used on all official stationary and posters by the Bicentennial Commission.

If you have any ideas for a bicentennial function which you would like to see the town undertake, please contact

Commission Chairman Paul McIlvaine
at
Mrs. Buckley

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS NOMINATED

At its meeting September 10th the Executive Committee of the Willington Historical Society appointed itself to be the Nominating Committee for offices due to be filled at this year's annual meeting October 8th. The following slate will be proposed:

President - Harold Weigold
Vice President - open
Treasurer - Frances Daley
Corresponding Secretary -
Margery Brown
Historian - Raymond Daley

Officers will be elected for two year terms. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

WILLINGTON AT WAR

"And Willington with pastures rough;
"And here and there a rock,
"With Noble for their minister,
"Sent forth their warlike stock."

from Cole's History of
Tolland County, p. 621

According to all accounts Willington, like the rest of the towns in this area, threw itself wholeheartedly into the struggle against British rule. Within 24 hours of the outbreak of hostilities at Lexington 31 militia-men were on their way from Willington. Eventually the town was "nearly deserted of men...the women left at home being obliged to do men's work in harvesting and getting in wood for the winter." This most did gladly to support the war effort. Cole's History reports that 150 to 200 men and boys from Willington finally went into the army.

One of these was the young son of Rev. Gideon Noble,, second pastor of Willington's Congregational Church and an adamant



(Willington at War Con't)

patriot. Reports differ as to whether the boy was 11 or 14 years old when he enlisted as fifer for the Willington company. Abraham Weston, 14 years old, was their drummer. Though Gideon was "so small...that the soldiers frequently carried him on their shoulders" he remained with the army until the end of the war.

On his way home from a tour of duty in 1782 young Gideon was inoculated against smallpox and became so ill that he was confined to bed for 2 months under intense medical care. For these medical bills his father applied and received 11 pounds/ 13 shillings/ 6 pence compensation for war-related injury.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

It is never too early to start making things for sale at the Society's booth at St. Jude's Bazaar in early December. Barbara Shaw, Ways and Means Chairman, suggests that crafts with a historical or antique theme are particularly appropriate—plus holiday items, plants, dried herbs and potpourris, and antiques.

Everyone will also be asked to provide baked goods.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

In this Bicentennial Year, we would like to have the largest membership ever in Willington Historical Society. Former members and new members are invited to join for the 1975-76 year and to participate in the many interesting activities planned during this special year in our nation's history. Our membership fees have not been influenced by inflation! The fees continue to be as follows:

Individual	\$3.00
Family	5.00
Corporate	10.00

We invite you to become a member for the 1975-76 year (September 1975 through August 1976) by sending your dues NOW:

to: Mrs. Robert McDowell, Mm Chmn
Navaratil Road
West Willington, Conn.

CALENDAR OF AREA EVENTS

October 4th, Saturday —
Wethersfield Historical Society presents: A Tour of Houses and History includes tour of 17th, 18th and 19th century interiors, literature, and refreshments, 10 AM to 4 PM. Call 52 9-7656 for information.

October 6th, Monday —
Tolland Historical Society presents Jim Douglas with Ballads of the American Revolution, 8:00 at Savings Bank of Tolland.

October 8th, Wednesday —
Willington Historical Society presents a Czechoslovakian evening with traditional desserts followed by a program with film by Geraldine Novotny. Annual business meeting precedes program. 7:00 PM, Old Town Hall.

October 14th, Tuesday —
Stafford Historical Society presents Thomas Young with program on local Architecture through the Years, 8:00 PM, Old Railroad Station.

November 3rd, Monday
Tolland Historical Society presents Kenneth White, A Tolland Thanksgiving, film and talk, 8:00 PM, Savings Bank of Tolland.

November 8th, Wednesday —
Willington Historical Society, work session on constitutional revision, 7:30 PM, Old Town Hall.

November 11th, Tuesday —
Stafford Historical Society presents Arthur Lyon, Jr., The Rapid Rise of Paper Americana, 8:00 PM, Old Railroad Station.

"A Message from the Membership Chairman"

DON'T DELAY -- JOIN TODAY

Note to Charter Members: Remember -- Dues must be paid each year to retain Charter Member status.