



Volume XV

Willington, Connecticut March 1936

No. 3

MARCH PROGRAM:

A film entitled SAYBROOK: THE COLONY 1635-1935 will be shown at the March meeting. This award-winning film was produced by Ellsworth Grant and narrated by Charles Kuralt. It was shown at the 350th Celebration Conference at which Isabel Weigold received her award from the American Association for State and Local Histories. Isabel and Harold Weigold and Betty Robertson were very impressed with the film.

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Center School

Date: March 21, 1936

SPEAKING OF AWARDS

1935 Award Gold Seals are available for placing on your History of Willington. The seals were purchased by the Historical Society and are available at no charge from Isabel Weigold or Betty Robertson. They will be distributed at the meeting. Copies of the Willington History are on hand at all times for your own use or for gift-giving.

OLDEST HOUSE DESIGNATED

At a meeting held in January the Willington Task Force heard a report on research done by Isabel Weigold concerning the oldest house in Willington. It was concluded that "Ye Olde Manse", named by Alice Cassells and located on the Willington Town Green, merited the award. The house was built by John Watson

somewhere between 1720 and 1729, and was used at times as a parsonage for the Congregational Church. The plaque will be engraved and presented in the spring when all residents of Willington will be invited to a picnic at the Green to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Connecticut's founding.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION PRESENTED TO SOCIETY

Peter Burns, State Chairman of the Connecticut Celebration 350th Committee has set two commemorative medallions to Willington. One of these was given to the Historical Society to be kept as a permanent part of the town's historic collection. The other was given to the Task Force who will make a decision about how it will be preserved for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERNEST KLINE

After many years of research and writing by Ernest and Mary Kline, the "History of the Storrs Congregational Church 1737-1934" has been published. We quote from the "Foreword", "the church and community are most grateful for their dedication to this task. The thoroughness and originality they contributed to making this history well documented and enjoyable reading will not soon be duplicated."

Anyone interested in purchasing this interesting and well-written book may do so by contacting the Storrs Congregational Church office.

WILLINGTON'S HISTORY IN THE SCHOOLS

The third graders at Center School, who have been studying how a town in Nebraska

WILLINGTON'S HISTORY (continued)

has changed over the years, decided they would like to know how Willington has changed. Mrs. Evangelou asked Isabel Weigold to speak on and show slides of Willington's past. The children were especially interested in the series of pictures showing how ice was cut at Hall's Pond and carried by conveyor belt to the South Willington Ice House where it was stored prior to being sent to Norwich by railroad.

In addition, some of the Hall Memorial students will be studying about Willington as part of the gifted and talented program.

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

A lamp with a lovely bubble glass top was donated by Mrs. Margaret Jensen. It is from the Dr. William Allen home (across from Hall Memorial School, in South Willington), which was built in 1830. This lamp was attached to the newel post of the staircase leading upstairs and was probably installed when electricity first came to South Willington, in the early 1900's. Given November, 1985.

Snapshots and newspaper clippings from Mrs. Beatrice Malo Brett of Westbrook, CT. January, 1936.

Three report cards from Charles Lee who lived in the Tyler house on Rte. 74. The report cards were found in the attic. One was intact, the others badly torn, but are clearly those of Fred Tyler and his son Richard Tyler. One was dated March 27, 1926 for Fred Tyler. The subjects were Arithmetic, Geography, Language, Spelling, Physiology, Music, Writing and Drawing. The others were for Richard, dated 1923, 1926, and 1927. By 1926 the new subjects added were Composition, Civics, History, Physical Education, Sewing, Nature Study, and Science. His teacher was Mildred Mirtl. Given January, 1936.

Postcards (10) and two photographs given by Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Ruby. One photograph was taken around 1917 and shows Leroy Wilson, Clarke Ruby and Merrill Wilson in front of the present Huff home on Rte. 74 in East Willington. They are standing on a flat sled which is being pulled by two handsome white horses. The other photo shows M. Burdick with

his team of oxen in front of the present Green home on the corner of Moose Meads and Jared Sparks Roads.

STREET NAMES

Members of the Historical Society have been active in stressing the importance considering historical significance when naming streets - the assignment of the Street Numbering Committee, Ned Beebe, Chairman. The new system of addresses make it easier for fire, police, and ambulance crews to find their way around town, an essential part of Willington's plan to establish a 911 telephone system for handling emergencies. The committee will draft an ordinance listing any proposed name changes for presentation at a town meet

COLONIAL HOUSE TOUR

A Colonial House Tour of Norwich, CT will be given on May 3, 1986, 12PM - 5PM. Sponsored by the United Community Service, the tour will benefit the Hospice Program. Due to the historical significance of the homes, you may be interested in coming to Norwich and seeing where the founders lived. The houses range in date from 1660 - 1800 and are each beautifully restored to reflect the flavor of the period. Refreshments included, the cost is \$7.50 per person with free parking and jitney service. If you would like more information or to reserve tickets, please call 889-2648. Ticket sales are limited.

NOTE

Caroline Mirtl's new address is:

Fenwood Home
565 Vernon Street
Manchester, CT. 06040
Telephone: 647-7915

COMING EVENTS

March 21 - Meeting - SAYBROOK: THE COLONIAL HOUSE TOUR
1635 - 1985

May 3 - Colonial House Tour - Norwich, CT.

PEN PICTURES OF WILLINGTON

By Jennie H. Church - taken from the Stafford Press, July 24, 1930.

TOWN HILL

TOWN HILL (continued)

A little hamlet forms a square about the common on Willington Hill, formerly known as "Town Hill". Though now entirely residential it was once the scene of activity. The large house at Maple Corner (now Edward Williams place) was built in the late 1700's as a stage tavern by Daniel Glazier for his son, Isaac Glazier, who was the first landlord and here his son Isaac, later of Hartford, was born. It was the stopping place of the stage coach from Hartford to Boston, Mass., and relays of horses were kept in the barn. After the tired horses with drooping heads were replaced by fresh horses, and the driver had been refreshed with a substantial meal and a tankard of ale to keep up his spirits, he gathered the lines in one hand and cracked his long whip with the other and the four horses started with the swaying, lumbering yellow coach. At the rear of the house was a blacksmith shop, which has been made into a house.

Just beyond was the first store on the hilltop that was kept for many years by Merrick Johnson, and later moved across the green to Hillside. Jonathan Weston was the first postmaster, was a prominent man, kind to loan papers and magazines and often delivered mail on horseback. He was generally respected and beloved. He lived across the common at the house which has been remodeled and is the home of Mrs. Isa K. Brown (now Ernest Kline). A sale of 45 rods of land with the store building, desk and stove thereon is recorded November 2, 1821, for the sum of \$250. Later Moses Dimock kept the store and postoffice, apothecary's shop and town clerk's office and eventually the abandoned building was purchased by Miss Vernetta Coleman of New York and made into an attractive summer home (now the home of the Chiarizio's). The pound was located at the west end of Willington Hill (corner of Ruby Rd. and Rte. 74), a walled-in enclosure where stray cattle were confined. The common was once rough, stony and full of weeds. Pigs were allowed to roam over it if each one had a ring in its nose. Half a mile south of the Hill was the old toll gate. (This was located near Kristoff's on Rte. 320).

The Baptist parsonage on "Town Hill" was built by a private association and held by it for many years before it became church property. It was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Horace A. Wilcox, who was ordained February 4, 1835 and who closed his

minister's small salary an annual donation or New Year's Party was held at the parsonage. It was the social event of the year and the parson, as he was usually called, received generous donations of almost everything from a cord of wood to all kinds of produce from the farm. The people came on horse teams, ox-teams and on horseback, men in "boiled" shirt, stiff collar and creaking boots. The supper consisted of an endless round of good things, for at the time a woman's chief pride was in her cooking. Not a grouch was seen, neither was criticism heard, but like a great family they gathered about the festive board and reverently bowed their heads. A dish was placed in the center of the table and each person was expected to leave ten cents for his supper and more if wished which was given to the parson. Our prosperous man always gave twenty-five dollars and to each of his sons he gave five dollars to contribute. Once they skipped out and he kept the money and ever afterwards he wanted to see that the money was deposited. After the old year has passed to the new with much merriment and sly whisperings of bashful swains to blushing maids, "can I see you home," the yearly donation came to an end.

(To be continued)

POEM SUBMITTED BY HAZEL SUNDT (author unknown)

TOO MUCH EVERYTHING

Too much oats and too much wheat
 Too much corn and too much heat
 Too much cotton and too much oil
 Too many highways, too many cars
 Too many people behind the bars,
 Too much poverty, too much wealth
 Too many people in ill health
 Too much politics, too much booze
 Too many wearing high-heeled shoes
 Too much loafing, too many bets
 Too many failing to pay their debts
 Too many living beyond their means
 Too many buying canned corn and beans
 Too many sowing their wild oats
 Too many candidates out for votes
 Too many hiring their washing done
 Too many playing their bridge for fun
 Too many people looking to Uncle Sam
 Too many people don't give a damn
 Too many people buying goods on time
 Too many people don't save a dime
 Too much ball, too much play
 Too many politicians on big pay
 Too many taxes, too much spent
 Too many folks spend every cent
 Too much reform, too much law
 It's the darndest mess you ever saw!

Willington Historical Society

Individual Membership \$ 2.50
 Family (Husband & Wife) \$ 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: Mrs. Frances Daley
 Glass Factory Schoolhouse Road
 West Willington, Connecticut 06277

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.