



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As you all know our weekends have been damp and gloomy. Sunday, April 10 was different, it was a bright spot for many people. After many years of work and dedication we had something to be proud of - The History of Willington.

We express our gratitude to Isabel Weigold and her family, for all the time spent on research for this book. Our thanks to Ron Demers for combining this research into a very readable history of Willington.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped in any way to make the "Publication Party" a success. I hope we can continue to work together to preserve the history of Willington.

Betty Robertson, President

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR AUTOGRAPHING

Those of you who missed the Publication Party and those who bought books after the party will have another opportunity to have books autographed by the author, Ron Demers, and/or the researcher, Isabel Weigold on May 21st at Hall Memorial School Parking lot between 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.. The Teachers Association are having an Antique and Craft Sale Flea Market and

selling space to anyone interested. The Historical Society has purchased space and will be selling old and new books, notepaper, postcards, maps, soap and other items.

OLD TIME MUSIC FESTIVAL
CENTER SCHOOL

May 20, 1983
7:30 p.m.

Georgianna Booth and Harriet Marce are co-chairpersons for the May program which will feature music composed between 1880 and 1920.

The Czechoslovakian group will sing, the Brownies will perform along with other young people, the Harmonica Group: Alex Kuchinsky, Alex Duhansky and Al Hunyadi, a favorite trio and other instrumentalists will be featured.

A sing-a-long is planned. Everyone is invited to attend and partake of homemade refreshments.

RECENT GIFTS

1. A paisley shawl, intricately woven and embroidered was loaned to the society by Mrs. Hazel Sundt. It once belonged to Kitty Dimock.
2. Two dresses worn by Rosa Hall and a linen tablecloth were given by Mrs. Rose Ann Sundt Martha.

Recent Gifts (continued)

3. List of persons over 4 and under 16 in School District #9 (South Willington or Thread District) dated October 1891 given by Mrs. Floyd Phelps.
4. An account book 1888-1889 of the General Store, West Willington probably kept by John Carpenter.
5. School District #6 (Roaring Brook) Record book dated 1857-1885. The first page contains the following:
"This Book was bought of L. W. Crane Dec. 1857 Price 17 cts Burnham Lillibridge."
6. "Songs of Christmas" by Kavergal dated 1885.
7. Numerous, ornate, flower cards.
8. Food ration certificates and stamps from World War II.
9. Several illuminated books of a religious nature.
10. Program of Memorial service for President U. S. Grant dated 1885.
11. Several music books of popular songs dated 1900's.
12. Sample card of Thread colors from Gardiner Hall Jr. Co.
13. A scrapbook of Willington News items dated 1863-1886.
14. Record book of the South Willington Young People's Christian Endeavor kept by Harriet M. Smith Service and others from 1918 to 1922.
15. Over 50 photographs of Willington in 1920's and later.

Numbers 4 through 15 were donated by Paul Dugbee who received them from Louis Service years ago. All of the above mentioned items are valuable additions to our collection and our thanks to everyone.

NEED FOR SPACE

The Society is outgrowing the space we have in the old Town Clerk's office. The vault is a secure place but does not have adequate temperature and humidity control. The Executive

Committee is concerned about this and is looking for alternative solutions. Much of our collection is paper which needs special conditions and is in danger of deteriorating if we don't find a solution soon.

HISTORY SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE AWARD

Ernest Kline writes the following: "Members of our Society will be interested to know that our new history was submitted for a National award nomination by the American Association for State and Local History. This was done as soon as a copy was available to accompany the application form. Advantage was taken of the opportunity to describe Isabel Weigold's part in the production of this work. If the award is forthcoming, it is my belief that the citation for Isabel will be a part of it. But the time for celebration has not come. There will be much competition for this award."

"Members of the Society should also understand the information for our newsletter, "The Hourglass" is almost entirely gathered by Mrs. Weigold. If any member would feel free to write a column, submit an historic fact, or contribute local historic color, such efforts would be gratefully received."

HISTORIES SELLING FAST

The History of Willington has been selling faster than anticipated. Word of mouth is our best advertisement, responses have been enthusiastic, and the mail is coming back with comments such as: "an excellent piece of work", "well written", it looks "distinguished and scholarly", the "end papers are delightful", "a beautiful job", and Ralph Savin, who contributed \$500 to the publication fund, said "Thank you for the tribute to the Savins; I thought it was worded just right."

We ordered 1000 copies and have sold 350 to date.

Books may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office, the Library and

Histories Selling Fast (continued)

Nancy Desmarais at the Hall Memorial School now and during the summer months.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Nancy Desmarais and Isabel Weigold have suggested that the Historical society sponsor a photography contest for children to be held next fall.

Prizes would be given for the best picture in several categories (to be advertised) one of which would be the oldest picture of Willington.

If the Society approves of the idea Nancy and Isabel will work out the details.

HELP NEEDED

There are many jobs to be done we are looking for volunteers.

1. Typists needed for copying additional lists of town officers that didn't get into the book. The plan is to mimeograph these lists and make them available for a small fee. Genealogists are interested in such lists, in particular.
2. People to write items for the News letter.
3. Books need to be cataloged and labels pasted in.
4. Help in researching land records to determine the number of old houses in town, and the dates of construction.
5. People to tape interviews with our long time residents.
6. Organize our holdings and display them periodically at Library, and/or Town Office Building, or other places.
7. Committee to receive gifts and bequests also to seek items for the Society.

CEMETERY STONES

Nancy Desmarais and her husband Norman will begin a long term project of photographing Willington's old grave stones. Many of the stones have already deteriorated, particularly the sandstone markers. Photographing the stones will provide a permanent record of the epitaphs and designs of the stones. It is

planned to make an album of these pictures and to map the locations of each stone for future reference.

CHARTER MEMBER DIES

Mrs. Doris Hall McBee, 86, was a charter member of the Society and a contributor of many articles of historical significance to the society.

A lifelong resident until five years ago she was active in community and state affairs and represented the town in the State Legislature for three terms.

We extend our sympathies to her family.

FOURTH OF JULY ADDRESS (Part II)

(Given by Seth Eaton near the Glass Factory Schoolhouse)

This road is now distinctly traceable nearly all the way where it does not coincide with the present highway, and is still well known by its ancient name of "Major Wolcott's road." It traversed nearly the line which we now travel from the river up the hill past Mr. Nichols' to where you see a bottle painted on a rock, then almost directly south to the line of Mr. Bently's present farm, then east again, passing within a few rods of where we now are and continuing about the same course to Geo. Sparrow's, (*editor's note: Sparrow's house was located across from Willington Hill Cemetery behind the garage), then more northerly to the south side of the burying ground, then directly to Willington Hill, and then partly in the present traveled course and partly a little south of it to the old Ashford line, which was at Heath's corner.

Finally, in 1809, the Tolland County Turnpike company was incorporated, and Major Wolcott's road, where it was not occupied by the turnpike of four rods wide, was abandoned to the adjacent land owners. Such was the end of the magnificent highway scheme of the founders of our town.

On the 20th of June 1727, the proprietors met and made a division

Fourth of July Address (continued)

among themselves of all the lands which they had not previously sold. Each one insisted on having a slice of the little cedar swamp at the south end of town. The place of the proprietors' meeting was at the house of John Cady, who lived very near where Mrs. Mary Newcomb now lives, owned a farm of 125 acres and had the first saw mill, and perhaps the first grist mill, there which was ever erected in this town.

Willington was created a town by act of the General Assembly in the May session of 1727. On the records of the G.A., in the act creating the town, the name is spelled "Willington," precisely as we spell it now. The name, however, in the early days, both in the colony and town records, appears sometimes as Willington and sometimes as Wellington, but in about 40 years after the first settlement the practice became confirmed of writing Willington. It was undoubtedly intended to name the town after Willington, a place in the county of Somerset in England. (Evelyn Bartley visited Willington in England last year and has some pictures).

(To be continued)

LOCKS TO BE CHANGED

The Executive Committee voted to have the lock changed on the outside door to the old Town Clerk's Office since it is evident that a person or persons have been using the connecting doors (which normally are bolted from the inside) between the Town Hall and the Clerk's office and leaving them open. Permission was received from the Selectman's office to make the change.

Harold Weigold will install the new lock and keys will be distributed to authorized persons only.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor . Isabel Weigold
 Typist . Elsie Hanks
 Collator and mimeographing -
 Nancy Desmarais
 Addressing and mailing -
 Ernest Kline

COMING EVENTS

May 20 . Old Time Music Festival
 Center School
 7:30 p.m.

July 13/16, 1983 . Hartford "83
 First National Conference for
 Genealogists in the Northeast
 Parkview Hilton, Hartford, CT.
 Call Isabel Weigold 429 2656
 for details.

May 10 . Stone Houses in New England
 By: Jon Harrison,
 Manchester, CT.
 7:30 p.m.
 Stafford Historical Society
 Museum.

NEW IDEAS FOR RAISING FUNDS

The society will be asked to consider ideas for raising funds, in addition to the items we presently have, at our May meeting.

We have samples of 4 x 4 inch ceramic tiles which could be used as hot mats and samples of silk screened place mats. Both of these items would be made with Willington designs of our choice.