



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Harold Weigold will present his slide show "Wild Flowers of Millington". Many of us have enjoyed Harold's slides in the past, and we have prevailed upon him to show us his updated collection of slides. Those of you who have not seen our native flowers in living color can look forward to a rare treat!

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Center School

DATE: November 15, 1985

## CONGRATULATIONS! SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Isobel Weigold has won a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History for contributions toward the preservation of the history of Millington, Connecticut.

The Association conferred the award at its annual meeting in Topeka, Kansas on September 9, 1985. The association's awards program is the nation's most prestigious competition for local history achievement.

Nominations originate at the local level and are screened at the state and regional levels by a national network of judges. Only those nominations approved in these preliminary competitions are considered for national honors.

The American Association for State and Local History, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, has given awards to local historians and historical agencies since 1944. A non-profit educational institutional organization with a membership of 6,500 individuals and institutions, AASLH works to advance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of local history in the United States and Canada. It publishes books, technical reports, and HISTORY NEWS magazine and holds seminars, workshops, and other educational programs for professional and volunteer workers in the field of state and local history.

Isobel and Harold Weigold and Betty Robertson attended a luncheon meeting at Tobacco Valley Inn in Windsor on October 17 at which time the award was presented to her by Dorothy Armitstead, New England Awards Chairman.

## THE OLDEST HOUSE IN MILLINGTON?

The Millington Task Force has a plaque, given by the state, to be awarded to the house designated as the oldest house in Millington based on the results of research and accompanying documentation. A decision will be made in the near future.

OLDEST HOUSE (continued)

The question still has not been resolved. Further research on the Daniel Aldredge home on Fr. 44, with the help of Herman Marshall who is an expert on old houses, indicates that the house was probably built between 1750 and 1775.

Traugh Shaw's home, a Cape Cod on Sharp's Road (Adamic Road) is an old house, but there is so little of the original interior left that it was not possible to date it. Land records indicate that there was a house on the property as early as 1730 but no definite proof exists that it was built prior to that time.

Alice Cassell's home on the Town Common has been traced to 1729 and was said to be an "old" house in 1730. The exterior of the house remains relatively unchanged, however, the interior has undergone many major changes.

HITS TO THE SOCIETY

1. Copy of the Declaration of Independence and a quill pen given by Ellen Hayes April 1935

2. Books - Willington School books  
Bulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift, Published in 1875

Child's Health Primer published in 1897

Four books written in the Czechoslovakian language

Volume 16 of the Ladies' Companion with original engravings dated 1892

Two Year Books of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture dated 1901 and 1917

Report of Secretary of Agriculture dated 1892

A Complete Pronouncing Dictionary of the English and Bohemian Language for General Use by Charles Jones and given to the Honorable William F. Miles, U.S. Senator, Dated 1892

These books were donated by Mrs. Linda Margeride September 1935

OLD TOWN HALL

The CC350 Willington Tank Force project of installing a ramp on the Old

Town Hall is close to completion, thanks to the dedicated effort of many people. At the time of this writing it appears that the use of the ramp for handicapped voters on Election Day will be an accomplished fact.

The following article was copied from the Stafford Press, Vol. 3 no. 12 dated June 12, 1930.

The THIRD CHURCH is the present Old Town Hall and the article is timely in that a new ramp is being built to make the hall accessible to the handicapped.

THE THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In 1840 alterations were made in the second meeting house. There were three rows of seats in the gallery, and every Sunday for years they were filled with singers numbering from 40 to 50, about one half being members of the various Aldredge families. Captain Elijah Aldredge and wife have been mentioned as "lovely and pleasant," in their lives. They, with their family of 10 children, were all members of the church at one time.

Although the church was well built and in good repair, many of the members were dissatisfied, wishing for a more imposing edifice. Some were opposed to erecting a new church, and one man said "I want my old seat I sat in so long." He was told he could have it. The beams and timbers were fastened with hard wood pins. About \$3000 was raised by subscription and the people helped with the work of building the new church.

In April 1876 the cornerstone of the Third Congregational Church was laid. The exercises began by singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," followed by an address by Rev. B. Colton. At the close of his remarks, the box containing the deposits was placed in a recess in the bottom of the stone, and the cornerstone placed over it and firmly cemented. The deposits were as follows: A copy of the pamphlet history of the Congregational Church and School; a list of the present church members, 75, and the names of the pastors; a list of the deacons of the church from 1757; a list of the families of the congregation and the

THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (continued)  
names of the church building committee;  
the names of those who subscribed for  
the building, and the amount; a copy  
of the Tolland County Press, Hartford Post,  
New York Daily Witness and Religious  
Herald. The church was built of wood  
and had a steeple. The bell, which is  
over 150 years old, came from the  
Stafford Street Congregational church,  
and is noted for its sweet tone. It  
contains 100 dollars worth of silver.  
One hundred members of the Stafford  
Street Church each contributed a silver  
dollar which were all melted.

In the old days the pews were owned  
by individuals, and the title to a pew  
passed by deed. Individual ownership  
of pews was a constant source of annoy-  
ance in many churches in New England.  
A pew, being private property, could  
be altered and decorated to conform to  
the fancy of the owner. In the old days  
more than one pew was built to measure  
up to the "spite fence." At length  
laws were passed compelling owners who  
refused to maintain their pews in ac-  
cordance with certain prescribed stand-  
ards. The ownership of pews in the old  
meeting house operated as a "thorn in  
the flesh," when in 1876 it was proposed  
to build a new meeting house. The  
following deed shows how pews were  
bought and sold in Willington a century  
and a quarter ago.

"Know all men by these presents that  
I, Joseph Rider, of Willington, in the  
county of Tolland and state of Connecti-  
cut, for the consideration of \$30 re-  
ceived to my full satisfaction of Ransom  
Curtiss of said Willington, do give,  
grant, bargain, sell and deliver unto  
him the said Curtiss, his heirs and  
assigns, one of my pews in the new  
meeting house in said Willington, situ-  
ated in east end of said house, being  
the third pew from the north, on the  
upper floor. To have and to hold the  
aforesaid bargained premises unto him  
the said Curtiss, his heirs, executors,  
administrators and assigns forever to  
his and their own proper use and behoof,  
and also I, the said Joseph Rider, do  
by the presence bind myself and heirs  
forever to warrant and defend the afore-  
said premises against all lawful claims  
and demands whatever. In witness

whereof I have hereunto set my hand  
and seal this 23rd of December AD 1799.

Joseph Rider

Test:

William Curtiss  
James Curtiss

#### HOMEY MATTERS

Fund raising for the Historical  
Society continues. On September 7 the  
booth at the Willington Flea Market  
realized \$122.50, and on October 12  
the Hall Memorial School Craft Fair  
netted \$25.25. Our thanks to all who  
participated. The next opportunity  
for raising money will be at the St.  
Jude Christmas Bazaar on November 21  
and 22. Any help that you can give  
will be greatly appreciated. Please  
call Betty Robertson or Isobel Weigold  
if you can help in any way.

We were saddened to lose a long-  
time friend and member of the Histori-  
cal Society when Mary Kline passed away  
on Sunday, October 20. Mary and Ernest  
have been among the most loyal and  
hardworking members of the society,  
and our sympathy goes out to Ernest  
in his loss and ours.

#### COMING EVENTS

November 15, 1985 - "Wild Flowers  
of Willington" by  
Harold Weigold

November 21-22 - St. Jude Bazaar

Millington 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 Millington Historical Society, and

mail with this slip to:

Mrs. Frances Daley  
 Glass Factory Schoolhouse Road  
 West Millington, 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.