



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

"Life in a One Room Schoolhouse" will be presented by Ethel Coburn. Ethel taught in the Village Hill School, and later in Center School in Willington. She also taught in Mansfield, and has many stories to tell of her experiences and the quality of education in the early 1900's. Those who have heard her stories thought that we would all enjoy them too. Come and bring a friend!

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Date: November 14, 1986

Place: Center School

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

A signature quilt dated about 1848 was received September 30, 1986 from the estate of Fern Callward. The quilt had been given to her by Henry D. Hannah of Mansfield, CT. in 1948, and has 73 signatures on it. There are 38 signatures of Willington people, 12 Rockville, 12 miscellaneous out of state, 5 Mansfield, 3 Pomfret, 2 Stafford and 1 Tolland. The quilt belonged, originally, to Mary Louise Hannah, grandmother of Olive M. Vinton of Willington. Olive married Solomon Washburn in 1848 and it is believed this was made for her as a wedding/friendship quilt.

The following items were given to the society by Eleanor Dupilka, Town Clerk, on October 2, 1986.

List of stockholders in the Willington Glass Co. dating 1847 to 1867.

Results of 1831 election.

Overseers appointed over those unable to manage their affairs - 1829 -1857.

Papers involving the estate of Ida M. Brown dating from 1940 to 1951.

Biographical sketches, probably written by Alice F. Smith, of: Theoron Brown, Joel Eno, Annie A. Preston, Reuben Marcy, Eliphalet Nott, Jared Sparks, Elias Loomis, and Lorenzo Dow.

A picture of Jared Sparks.

Other miscellaneous documents.

WILLINGTON HISTORY AVAILABLE

The Historical Society has available, for your own use or as gifts, many copies of A HISTORY OF WILLINGTON for sale at \$18 per copy from officers of the society. They will be offered at the Hall School Craft Fair on November 15 and at the St. Jude Bazaar on November 21 and 22.

Willington History (continued)

Christmas decorations and gifts, postcards and notepaper with Willington scenes and home-made soap will also be for sale. Donations of any hand-made items will be very welcome.

LECTURE SERIES

The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the UConn Co-op have invited speakers who are experts in their fields to participate in an informal Sunday Lecture Series. The lectures will be held in the Benton Connection Art Gallery of the Jorgensen Auditorium Building. The programs will commence at 3:00 P.M. and include a reception with refreshments following each talk.

Guest speakers will be happy to autograph copies of their books after their talks. Books will be available at the UConn Co-op and at the lectures.

November 9 - Michael Bell, author of Face of Connecticut: People, Geology and the Land, published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, will talk about the natural history of Connecticut.

February 15 - Harry S. Stout of Yale will give a lecture based on his book, New England Soul. Mr. Stout has done extensive research on sermons as a form of communication in early New England.

Everyone welcome - free admission.

WILLINGTON INDUSTRIES (continued)

One of the largest centers of commercial activity in Northeastern Connecticut during this period (1830) was a place owned by Origen Dimock in Moose Meadow. It was here that the first grist mill in town was established. Other industries found here were a flour mill, a large building where palm leaf hats, furniture, and matches were made; a wood yard employing water power supplied stove wood to families living

in the Glass Factory and East Willington area. In addition, there was also a small mine where iron ore was obtained and made into pig iron. And finally, a general store, which in addition to the goods produced by the local industries, purchased for resale supplies from Hartford and Norwich. It is interesting to note here that these supplies were brought in by ox teams which performed a freight service both ways, similar to that carried on by our contemporary trucking lines. Liquor was one of the most profitable items handled by the store. Also, from this store a team outfit for peddling "Yankee notions" was sent into Massachusetts and Vermont.

A little to the north of this store, two Fuller brothers had a small business for the manufacture of pocketbooks and neck stocks which were worn at that time. They marketed their products throughout the Eastern States. These two brothers also had a nursery in which they specialized in the growing of shade and fruit trees for market. Many of these were sold in Providence, Rhode Island. "It is still mentioned that at one time they delivered a load that required six yoke of oxen to draw, and brought back in return a check for one thousand dollars."

In the Roaring Brook region, establishments at the Eldredge Mills location utilized the water power of this rapidly flowing stream for the operation of a grist mill and one of the town's six saw mills in 1800. Here also was a shop which produced wooden tooth hay rakes which were quite well known for their workmanship. (Note: the foundation for this mill still exists and can be seen where Roaring Brook crosses Village Hill road.)

At the Estin place was a foundry which utilized the bog iron found in the local swamps. Some of the items produced at this foundry were: scythes, hoes, rakes, pitch forks, and fronts for wooden ploughs. Fulling and woolen mills are also known to have existed, but records of them are not to be found.

Further to the north at the Burnham

(Willington Industries) (continued)

Lillibridge place (near where the Murray's live now) was established on the stream another sawmill which was very productive. Adjoining this mill was a shop which produced, among other things, blocks for spools and wagon spokes. The side scraper, a very useful implement which is now used for the repairing of roads was invented here by Mr. Lillibridge.

(to be continued)

NOTE:

Mrs. Emily Burns' new address is:
4616 Saturn Road #605
Garland, Texas 75041-6211

COMING EVENTS

- November 9 Michael Bell lecture at UConn - 3:00 P.M.
- November 14 Historical Society meeting - "Life in a One Room Schoolhouse"
- November 15 Craft Fair - 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. - Hall School
- November 21 St. Jude Bazaar 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
- November 22 St. Jude Bazaar 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
- February 15 Harry S. Stout at UConn - 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Willington Historical Society - 1986-1987

Individual Membership	\$2.50
Family (Husband-Wife) Membership	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 Road
West Willington, CT. 06279