



## THE HOURGLASS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ~ WILLINGTON

Vol. X

Willington, Connecticut - September 1981

No. 1

### SEPTEMBER MEETING - OLD HOUSEHOLD IMPLEMENTS

Date: September 18, 1981 (Friday)  
Time: 7:30 P.M.  
Place: Center School

Theme: Old tools or other interesting items used in the home or on the farm. Anyone having items of interest is asked to bring them and give a brief talk on what it is and how it was used. What is the most unusual item you have? Bring it along and let us guess what it is.

### OLD-TIME SONG FEST WELL ATTENDED.

The program last May proved to be well-received with all seats filled. Those who participated were: April Kosiba on the piano; Gretchen Schur, trumpet; Gretchen Schur and Jennifer Platek, trumpet duet; Senior Citizens including Hilda and Norman Desmarais, Carrie and Bill Kotrba, Dick Peterson, Catherine Vonasek, Louis Zaicek and Kit Peterson accompanist. Alex Duhansky, Alfred Hunyadi and Alex Kuchinsky on the harmonica; Nancy King and Claudia Rondeau, guitar and vocal duet; Robert King, Jr., mandolin; Mary Belanger, guitar and vocal; Paul Belanger, vocal, accompanied by his wife on the guitar. Audience participation

was encouraged throughout the evening, led by Mrs. Aldona Downing who also served as mistress of ceremonies.

### TOWN HALL IS PAINTED.

The Society is pleased to see the Town Hall being refurbished with a new coat of paint. We understand that it is going to get one more coat.

The Town Common, with all its historic buildings, can again be looked upon with pride.

### SUGGESTIONS WELCOMED

Suggestions for new and different material to be included in the HOURGLASS will be welcomed. They may be sent to Isabel Weigold, Red Oak Hill, West Willington, or phoned in to 429-2656.

### HELP !!!!!!!

Volunteers are sought to help organize the Society's collection of letters manuscripts, pictures, books and other artifacts. If interested call Betty Robertson or Isabel Weigold.

### HISTORY IN FINAL STAGES OF COMPLETION

Rich Demers has completed the revisions on the manuscript of Willington's history. Isabel Weigold has been working during the summer to complete the information for the appendices which will include the town officers from 1727 to 1980 as well as officers of the various organizations in town.

Pictures are being collected and will need to be reviewed for possible inclusion in the book.

Letters have been sent to the organizations in town requesting pictures and information which they might wish to have included.

Target date for publication is 1982-83. Volunteers for a Publication Committee are needed.

### BOOK PLATES

A book plate design will be submitted for approval at the next meeting in September. The estimated price is 500 for \$30.00. The Society owns a number of books which should have a means of identification particularly those that will be housed on separate shelves in the new Mary D. Edwards Library at Hall School. A space has been provided for the name of the donor and the date given.

The book plates, if approved, will be printed on an old printing press using the original type available in the late 1800's.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership fees are due and payable during the month of September for the 1981-82 year.

- Individual Membership - \$2.50
- Family - \$5.00
- Corporate - \$10.00

New members are welcomed.

Complete the attached membership form and return it to Nancy Desmarais, Rt. 44, West Willington, CT. 06279.

### EDITORIAL STAFF OF HOURGLASS

- Editor: Isabel Weigold
- Typist: Elsie Hanks
- mimeographer: Nancy Desmarais
- Addressers: Mary and Ernest Kline

Our thanks to all who have made this Newsletter possible.

### RECENT GIFTS

Letter dated 1941 from Jennie Church (who lived in the Callward house) to Francis Dolezal.

Two Edison records patented 1910, which came from the Frederick Tylers before they moved.

Scng Book dated 1917 given to Miss Dunning (who lived in the Halfgott house) by Walter Damrosch.

All of the above items were given by Mrs. Raymond Burns in June, 1981.

### PEN PICTURES OF WILLINGTON By Jennie H. Church in 1930 (Excerpts)

"Jared Sparks, one of the most noted men of Willington, was born in Willington in 1789. In his early boyhood he showed great ability and was especially interested in astronomy. Before leaving the district school he made a very ingenious wooden globe marked off with meridians and the signs of the zodiac, "which is still preserved in the office of John McDonald, Library Director at the University of Connecticut.

"He was graduated from Harvard in 1815 and was professor of ancient and modern history there from 1839 to 1849 and president of the college from 1849 to 1863. He wrote several works, including "Life and Writings of George Washington" in 12 vols., a valuable publication, and "The Library of American Biography" in 25 vols.

He was the favorite pupil of Rev. Hubbell Loomis at the parsonage beneath the trees, midway of the long line of Loomis maples (now the home of Georgianna Booth). The ell was added by Mr. Loomis for a study and library. He always read and wrote

Pen Pictures (continued)

standing by a desk of just the convenient height, which was fastened to the wall at the back, and had two long, plain legs in front. Several of these desks, high enough to correct any inclination to acquire the 'scholar stoop,' were about the house in different rooms and a few are still treasured in Willington."

Jared Sparks, while being tutored by Rev. Hubbell Loomis, contracted this habit of study and when absorbed in composition would walk about his large library and living room in the house he built at Cambridge, Mass., and then standing at his desk write out his formulated thought."

HISTORIC DISTRICT APPROVED.

After about four years of work, this Historic District Study Committee finished its research and presented its report to the Planning and Zoning Commission and then to the State Historical District Commission.

The owners of the buildings around the Town Common were invited to a hearing and then were given the opportunity to vote by secret ballot at a later date. The vote was nearly unanimous for acceptance of an Historic District. The one exception was a person who had 1/2 a vote but did not return his ballot.

The town has directed the Board of Selectmen to appoint a five member commission with three alternate members - at least one member and one alternate member must be residents of the Historic district.

BEST WISHES TO EMILY AND RAY BURNS

Emily and Ray, charter members of the Historical Society, and long time residents of Willington have moved to Oregon to be closer to their daughter and son-in-law.

Though we will miss them, we wish them well in their new surroundings.

20TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

The Society will have its usual items for sale with some new additions at the 20th Annual Flea Market to be held on the Common on September 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The "Report of the Willington Historical Study Committee" printed in preparation for the proposed historic district at the Willington Common will be for sale.

The Thirteen buildings around the Common are pictured including a carefully researched history of the previous owners and dates of origin of the buildings, with some interesting anecdotes. The pamphlet may be purchased for \$2.75 at the Flea Market or from members of the Historical Society.

Other items to be sold are: Home-made soap, Town Reports dating back to the late 1800's and early 1900's, maps, plain and painted; note paper, postcards depicting Willington scenes, the Willington Chronology and "Recollections of John Merrick."

These items are available from members of the Society at any time during the year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ernest Kline and Raymond Dalcy were appointed by President Betty Robertson, to seek candidates to fill the expiring terms of President and Treasurer.

Betty Robertson and Frances Dalcy incumbents, have been nominated for two year terms.

Election will take place at the next meeting, September 18, at the Center School.

COMING EVENTS

September 12 - 20th Annual Flea Market - 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by Federated Church of Willington

September 26 - Conn. League of Historical Societies meet in New Milford.

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR  
THE 1981-82 YEAR.

- November 20 - COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE -  
Slide presentation by  
Grant Meitzler
- March 17 - Speaker from Stafford  
on Medicinal Springs
- May 21 - Wild Flowers, herbs, and  
their medicinal uses by  
Barbara Shaw.
- Demonstration and Slide  
Presentation, followed  
by especially brewed  
herb teas.