



THE HOURGLASS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ~ WILLINGTON

Vol. XI

Willington, Connecticut September 1982

No. 1

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

WILDFLOWERS OF WILLINGTON

Date: September 24, 1982

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Center School Music Room

A slide presentation of wild flowers of Willington and environs will be shown by Harold Weigold. Harold has spent the past several years photographing rare and common varieties of wildflowers that grow in the area and has an excellent collection numbering over a hundred slides.

This will be a follow-up to the presentation done by Barbara Shaw last May when she showed over 80 plants and told of their medicinal uses as well as their food value. The well-attended meeting was followed by samples of herb teas using camomile, black birch and sassafras.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THEIR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Clarke and Margaret Ruby celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past August. The Society presented them with a lovely golden bouquet of dried flowers and a card of good wishes for many healthy and happy years to come.

HUNDREDS OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS REPRODUCED ON SLIDES

The school librarian, Joan Egan and Isabel Weigold are working together to get all of our old photographs on slides so that they can be presented to the public and to school children as an introduction to Willington's history. The first presentation of this effort will be on November 9th and the same week another presentation will be made for the Historical Society - see Coming Events section for dates.

PUBLICATION FUND REACHES GOAL

This summer has been full of good news. The Executive Committee met several times and made the decision to cut off the possibility of ordering the History of Willington at the pre-publication price of \$15.00. We received such a good response to our advertisements, newsletter and sign-up sheets that we can now proceed with confidence that we will have enough money to pay the publisher when his work is completed. Anyone who signed up for a copy at the

\$15.00 price and have not yet sent in the payment should send a check to Mrs. Frances Daley, Glass Factory School Road, W. Willington before October 1, 1982.

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1.

The price will go up after that date.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Since our book may not be ready by Christmas - we will be selling gift certificates which may be presented for redemption when the book comes off the press. We are expecting that the books will be ready by January, 1983. The price is yet to be determined. The certificates may be obtained at St. Jude's Bazaar on November 18, and 19 or by contacting a member of the Society. Further information will be forthcoming in November.

PUBLISHING HAS BEGUN

Studley Press has begun the first four chapters of our History. The concept will be modern in design. The Executive Committee has approved of the design for the most part with one minor exception, so that the remainder of the work can proceed. We will be receiving the chapters for proofreading and have had volunteers to help with this aspect of the publication.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are due and payable during the month of September for the 1982-83 year.

Individual membership	\$2.50
Family	5.00
Corporate	\$10.00

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

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

SOCIETY RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Willington Bicentennial Community Service Award for outstanding service to the community of Willington was awarded to this society on Memorial Day this year. Linda Stanish, Chairperson of

the Willington Bicentennial Committee presented the certificate and check for \$25.00 to Betty Robertson, President, with the statement that the Society had made a significant contribution to the town by writing and publishing the history of Willington.

The Bicentennial Committee has made this award annually since 1976 to a citizen or group who has performed an outstanding service to the town. This was the first year that a group received this award.

RECENT GIFTS

Copies of letters written by Belle Merrick, who lived in the Michael Helfgett home, to her friend Jennie Morgan between June 1862 and 1869, Jennie married Thomas Morgan and both were missionaries in the West Indies. Belle was a teacher in Willington and her letters bemoan her loneliness and poor health for the most part. The letters were given by Michael and Lester Barton who are from New Jersey.

Photographs from Carol and John Service which came from the estate of Harriet and Gallop Service. Many of them are invaluable and depict life in Willington in the early 1900's. Many school pictures (all labeled) and several of the workers at the Gardiner Hall Thread Co.

A series of colored slides were given by the Willington Bicentennial Committee which were taken during the 250th Anniversary Celebration in 1976.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Betty Robertson, President, appointed Nancy Desmarais and Harriet Harce to act as a nominating committee to bring a proposed slate to the membership. The two positions which expire this year are those of Vice-President and Secretary now filled by Ernest Kline and Harold Weigold respectively.

The membership will be asked to act on the slate at the September 24th meeting at which time nominations may be made from the floor as well.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT STAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ernest Kline and Isabel Weigold have been asked to speak at the Stafford Historical Society meeting on November 9th. Ernest will talk about the formation of the Historic District and some of the interesting facts he found on his research of the area around the Town Common. Isabel will show, for the first time, the photographs that have been reproduced on slides of Old Willington. Photos date from 1882 up to the present.

RECENT FIND IN CONNECTICUT ARCHIVES

In December of 1790 Edward Carter, a negro, petitioned the General Assembly to allow him to keep the house he built for himself and family in Willington. It seems that he enrolled in the 2nd Regiment, 4th Company of the Connecticut Troops during the Revolutionary War with the hope that he would be emancipated. He underwent the "Misery and hardship incident to War with Cheerfulness Consoling himself at all Times with the Prospects of freedom for self and Country"... but when he was released from the Army and built his house on his previous owner's property the Town of Willington prevented him from living in it and sent him to another town. Carter's request was denied.

Later information established that Carter came to Willington in 1789. He had a brother Esau who was also a slave. Edward moved to Ellington and changed his name to Edward Chappel.

Willington's census of 1790 indicates that Benjamin Lillibridge owned a slave - no others were reported in this census so it is possible that Edward was the one named and may have built his house on Benjamin's property.

PEN PICTURES OF WILLINGTON

BY JENNIE H. CHURCH

Published in Tolland County Press 1930

Orphans Bound Out

In the days when George the Third of England was King over the colonists, orphan boys were bound out by the selectmen until they were twenty-one years old.

to work for their board and clothes and to learn a trade, hence the old time expression "bound boy."

A little study, but mostly work, occupied the long days and the pleasures were few and simple. The boys had to get up early and retire soon after the chickens went to roost for the old saying was, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." Dressing in the dark and bitter cold of winter they hastened to do the "chores" before breakfast which was usually corn meal, bread, salt pork and potatoes with a pitcher of cider handy.

The sturdy boys were toughened by many hardships and developed their muscles by swinging the axe and cutting wood for the big fireplace. They had to go to meeting every Sunday and sit for hours during the two tedious and monotonous services. The children as well as colored people were placed in the back seats or galleries. The women and men sat on opposite sides of the meeting house. If the boys slept or were disorderly they were rapped unmercifully on the heads by tithing men with long staves tipped with brass. They had shoes for Sunday wear but usually carried them in their hands until near the meeting house when they put on their shoes and stockings.

Although deep interest was felt in education, few branches of study were taught. The teachers made and mended the pens, which were of goose quills. Care was taken that no illiterate children grew up and every parent and guardian was warned "not to suffer so much barbarism in any of their families as to have a single child or apprentice unable to read the holy word of God and the good laws of the colony, and to bring them up to some lawful calling or employment, under a penalty for such offenses."

Sometimes the boys ran away, for many homes were not pleasant. The work was hard, the discipline strict, with plenty of fault finding. The following advertisement in the American Mercury, printed at Hartford, July 19, 1804, from our neighboring town is of interest: "Run away from

Orphans Bound Out (Continued)

-4-

the subscriber the 3rd ult. an apprent-
ice boy named Frederick Putnam, 17 years
old, light hair, blue eyes, light com-
plexion and a very down lock. Whoever
will take up said runaway and return him
to the subscriber shall receive a gener-
ous reward and no charges paid. All
persons are hereby forbid harboring, trust-
ing or employing said boy on penalty of
the law. Danielo Cobb Gordon, Tolland,
Conn. July 5, 1804.

(To be continued)

NEXT INSTALLMENT ON
INDENTURED SERVANTS.

COMING EVENTS -

September 24 -- WILDFLOWERS OF WILLINGTON

By Harold Weigold

7:30 p.m.

Center School Music Room

November 9 -- Tuesday -- Ernest Kline and Isabel Weigold

Guest speakers at the Stafford Historical Society

7:30 p.m.

Railroad Depot

Stafford Springs

November 12 -- Friday -- Ernest Kline and Isabel Weigold

will give the same talk as the one above for the Willington membership

7:30 p.m.

Center School Music Room

November 18, 19 -- 4:00 -- 8:00 p.m.

St. Jude's Bazaar

Old Farms Road

March 18 -- Friday -- Willington Historical Society

meets -- program is yet to be determined

May 20 -- Friday -- Willington Historical Society

meets -- program yet to be determined.