



Vol. XII

Willington, Connecticut

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No. 1

SEPTEMBER PROJECT - HOUSE RESTORATION

Herman Marshall of Coventry will speak and show slides on methods and problems of restoring old houses, something he has been doing for the last 10 years. Some of the well known restorations he has been responsible for are: Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry, the Gurleyville Gristmill of Mansfield, the Amasa Day Home in Moodus and the Cheney Home in Manchester.

He has a collection of old tools which were used in the colonial days for building houses which he will exhibit on Friday.

The Marshalls are well known in the area. His wife, Jesse, spoke last spring on the rare Bed Bug.

Time: 7:30 p.m. Date: September 16
Place: Center School

Come and bring a friend.

NEAREST MONEY MAKING PROJECTS

The Society has for sale for the first time a 4 x 4 inch ceramic tile depicting the old Town Hall which was sketched by Marion Doran. The tile may

be used as a hot plate or hung as a wall decoration. The design is black on white with a suitable inscription. The tiles may be purchased for \$2.75 each.

OLD WOOD CUTS USED IN NEW CALENDARS

The Society expects to have an attractive 1964 Calendar ready by Christmas. We are collaborating with Sturbridge Village who will print the calendars for us at a reasonable cost. Each month will have a picture taken from the original woodcut showing a variety of farm and school scenes.

A brief history of the historical society will be included on the inside cover.

These attractive and different calendars will make a nice Christmas gift.

SPRING TAG SALE HELD AT HALL MEMORIAL SCHOOL

The Society realized \$247.00 at the Hall School tag sale last spring. Ron Demers and Isabel Weigold were

SPRING TAG SALE (continued)

available to autograph the History and received congratulations on the new publication.

RECENT GIFTS

A collection of postcards depicting South Willington buildings was given by Beatrice Cory of Old River Road. The cards were printed in Germany and sold at the Hall's General Store in South Willington.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Entry blanks are still available for anyone eligible to enter the Photography Contest sponsored by the Society. Students in grades 5 through 8 are eligible and prizes will be awarded for the three best photographs.

Entries must be in by September 30. Judging will take place between October 3 and 5.

All entries will be displayed for one week at the Mary Edwards Library at Hall Memorial School from October 3 to 13, 1963.

Entry blanks can be obtained at the Mary D. Edwards Library.

LOOKING FOR AN OLD WILLINGTON PICTURE

An additional contest, open to all Willington residents, is being held to find the oldest picture of Willington. A prize of \$10.00 will be awarded for the picture selected as the best and oldest.

Entries should be submitted by September 30 to Nancy Desmarais or Isabel Weigold who are at Hall Memorial School during the week.

FALL BOOK AFFAIR IN STURBRIDGE

The Society has been invited to attend the Fall Book Affair on September 17, 1963 at Sturbridge Village, Mass. Authors and publishers from New England will attend and autograph books.

Ron Demers, the author of our Willington History, Isabel Weigold, researcher and Betty Robertson, President of the Society, will attend.

FALL BOOK AFFAIR (continued)

The affair will run from 10 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2.00.

ORAL HISTORY

G. G. Booth has volunteered to interview our long-time residents which will be taped and transcribed, and retained as part of our oral history collection. We have a few tapes in our collection now which may be used by school children, for instance, so that they may hear first hand, the experiences and memories of Willington people.

An Oral History workshop is being held on September 24, at the Faculty Alumni Center at the University of Connecticut. Anyone interested may attend. Registration must be in by September 15.

GRADUATION AWARDS

Gretchen Schur and Matthew Zinnorann were the recipients of the Willington Historical Society Awards as the two outstanding students in Social Studies. Mrs. Elizabeth Robertson, president, made the awards on graduation night.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We got one response to our plea for help. We still need more people to work on gathering information for our Newsletter or to be responsible for a column.

Our program chairperson, Harriet Marco, has resigned. She has done an excellent job of providing interesting programs for the last several years. The Executive Committee works closely with the program chairperson in providing suggestions, etc. Any volunteers?

We also need a typist for getting the lists of people who served in various capacities in the town government ready for mimeographing. The research is done and the rough typing completed. We now need to have these typed on stencils.

People to research land records

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (continued)

and determine dates of old houses. Much of this work has been done but more is ahead. It is hoped that we can publish a book on just the old houses and buildings in town.

Persons to receive gifts, catalog and record them.

SOCIETY ACQUIRES FURNITURE

Anthony and Barbara Stempian owners of the Millington Game Farm sold their home and auctioned off their furnishings recently. We were fortunate to get three pieces at a reasonable cost. One piece is suitable for displaying some of our holdings under glass. Another piece will be perfect for holding blankets, quilts etc. and for displaying them also. The third piece has drawer space underneath with glass doors and cabinet on top.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ernest Kline and Francis Deley volunteered to serve on a nominating committee to bring in a slate for the September meeting. The offices of President and Treasurer expire this year.

Nominations may also be made from the floor.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Society now has about 60 paid members.

Two new members, John Benson and Anke Kriske, have expressed an interest in helping Nancy Desmarais on photographing and mapping the stones in all the local cemeteries. It is hoped this project will get underway this fall.

New members are always welcome. If you know of anyone interested in joining, encourage them to contact Nancy Desmarais or any member of the Society.

FOURTH OF JULY ADDRESS (Part III) (Given by Seth Eaton near the Glass Factory Schoolhouse)

"Among the first acts of the town after its organization as such were efforts to get a little more territory:

Ashford was very wide and Millington was very narrow. So, in October, 1727 they succeeded in getting a mile in breadth from the whole west side of Ashford annexed to Millington, as far as parish charges were concerned, and two years afterwards the annexation was made complete for all purposes. The limits of the town were then established as they at present remain."

"The first actual settler within our limits was Francis Fenton, a son of Robert Fenton of Mansfield. He established himself just over the line from Mansfield, on what is now called the Henderson place, about the year 1717. His son, Francis, was born there March 16, 1718. He had no title to his farm until 1724, when he bought of the proprietors 110 acres for £16. He always took a prominent part in the affairs of the town, became a very extensive land owner, gained the rank of captain was the ancestor of all the race of Fentons of the south part of the town, and died January 25, 1781. His wife, Anna, lived till July 1, 1785. His youngest son, Elijah, born February 6, 1756, attained the rank of major, and immediately on receipt of the news of the battle of Lexington started for the seat of war with 30 Millington men. Major Fenton died October 10, 1775. He was the father of John Fenton and grandfather of Mrs. Marilla Smith, who is now living in this town. This lady tells me that she is the only person now living in Millington who ever had the name of Fenton. Lieut. Nathaniel, the second son of Capt. Fenton, born April 10, 1720, was grandfather of the late Chester Fenton." (Chester Fenton lived in the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. D. Moore, on the corner of Luchon and Pinney Hill Roads,) Ed. note

"Thomas Jennings was on the ground with several sons as early as 1721. His farm was north of the cedar swamp, the Henry O. Holt farm. His descendants have lived here till quite recent times. Joseph Parsons and John Herrick came from Springfield about the year 1726, and set

4.

FOURTH OF JULY ADDRESS (continued)

up their homes in the immediate neighborhood of the place where we now are. The former had a farm of 148 acres including these grounds. Perhaps some present remember where his son, Capt. Joseph Parsons lived where Mr. Bently does now. John Merrick had 333 acres next east of this farm and extending from Maj. Walcott's road about a mile south. His sons, John, Jr. and Stephen were born before he came here and his son Joseph and daughters Mary, Ruth and Abigail after. I have not been able to tell precisely where John Merrick's house stood, but I think that his son Stephen, who married Eunice Hye and was grandfather to the late Abel Johnson, built the Johnson house, and that his son, Capt. Joseph, who married Ann Holt and was father to Capt. Timothy and Thomas, lived on the ground where Marlin Knight now lives" *(This refers to the home of the Vaughan Shaws on Sharp's Mill Corners) *Editors Note.

(To be continued)

COLLING EVENTS

- 16 Sept. 7:30 p.m. Center School
Herman Marshall on House
Restoration procedures
and problems.
- 17 Sept. Fall Book Affair
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Museum Education Building
Sturbridge, Mass.
- 24 Sept. Oral History Workshop
Faculty Alumni Center
Univ. of Conn.
9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
- 18 Nov. Winners of Photography
Contest will exhibit
their entries and tell
the story behind the
picture
7:30 p.m. - Center School
- 16 March Visiting speaker from
an area town.
- 18 May Old Fashioned Musical