



NOVEMBER MEETING
November 8, 1991
Town Hall 7:30 P.M.

The State Archeologist of Connecticut, Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, will present a lecture on the preservation of archeological sites in Willington and the surrounding area. Dr. Bellantoni is well trained for his position of State Archeologist, which he assumed in December 1987. He received his B.A. in Anthropology and M. S. in Biological Science at Central Connecticut State University and his M. A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. He is also well known for the energy and enthusiasm with which he has gone about his profession.

He will welcome information about finds and Indian sites known to our members so that they may be investigated and preserved. This should be a great program - be sure to come!

PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM CALIFORNIA

We welcome the return of John Blessington, president, who arrived the beginning of October. He had been called to serve during the Gulf crisis with the understanding it would be for the duration. The Society has missed his leadership and welcomes him back.

A Message from the President. . .

Or perhaps I should say part time president as I spent the summer in Barstow, California, dressing up like a tree and in general having a good old time. I needn't have worried. The war is over, I am back here, and having been away for eight months has given me a perspective on how much the Society can accomplish in such a short length of time.

The Town Hall looks beautiful! A special thank you to all who contributed, be it money, time or labor, or any combination thereof. I think it is something we can all be proud of. Our next meeting, and hopefully all subsequent meetings, will be held there. This will give us the opportunity to show off what we've done and to explain our plans

for the future. We still have to do something about the lights and the floor. Contributions are welcome. Please send them to:
Willington Historical Society
Town Hall Fund
c/o Harold Weigold
48 Red Oak Hill
Willington, CT 06279

It seems as if there are a lot of thank you's to be said. Another one is owed to the Weigold's and Marion Doran for "A Glimpse of Willington's Past", the beautifully illustrated book on the old houses of Willington. It is recommended for Christmas presents for the adults, and, for children with an interest in history, the companion coloring book is equally recommended. Both will be available at our next meeting.

Speaking of the next meeting, it will be at the Town Hall on November the 8 th. Nick Bellantoni will be the speaker. I have seen one of his presentations before and he is extremely interesting and entertaining. Come to the meeting at 7:30 and bring some friends. I don't think you will be disappointed.

OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLICATION PARTY: A SUCCESS!

It is estimated that about 300 people attended the Open House and Publication party at the Town Hall on Flea Market Day. Nearly everyone was impressed with the "new look". An exhibit of pictures and memorabilia accompanied the TIMELINE which included events concerning the Town Hall beginning in 1728 to the present. The time line was researched and a rough draft made by Marjorie Brown and Thelma King. The final draft was attractively printed by Barbara Ziobro.

Our newest publication, A Glimpse of Willington's Past, written by Isabel B. Weigold and illustrated by Marion Doran got off to a good start. Isabel and Marion autographed 140 books that day. To date 250 have been sold.

The coloring books at \$3.00 each containing selected sketches of the old houses and prints of the original sketches are also available at \$8.00 each unmatted and \$10.00 matted.

TOWN HALL RENOVATION

The Board of Selectmen has requested that the Society get bids for the remaining work to be done in the audience room with the understanding that they will present the information to the Board of Finance instead of going through the grant process. The Society has raised \$7007.97 to date. The total cost of the remaining work is estimated to be \$9143.42

The remaining work planned is: refinishing the floor; purchase of 200 new chairs, and two trucks on which to store the chairs; installing new light fixtures in the audience room and in the entryway; buying and installing spotlights on the stage.

Sale of the old chairs will go toward the purchase of new folding chairs with padded seats and backs. Several people have signed up to purchase the old chairs when they go on sale. There are more chairs to be sold - if interested contact John Blessington, Elizabeth Robertson or Isabel Weigold.

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Life of George Washington by Jared Sparks published in 1843 was given by Marjorie

Robbins of North Franklin, CT on September 17, 1991. We are indeed fortunate to have this book since it is rare and because it is written by a native son, the nation's first historian. Mrs. Robbins donated the book because she felt "it should go back to Spark's birthplace." We have a number of books by Jared and we are always looking for additions to this collection.

From Sally McBee Merrow, Sept. 1991:
Civil Defense - Air Raid Instructions

Civil Defense - How to Stock you Air Raid Shelter

Gardiner H. Hall was the Civil Defense Director following World War II.

A partial newspaper item concerning the Rider Family Genealogy.

Photos of the Gardiner Hall Jr. Mill and an interior view of a mill room containing the Automatic Pattern Machines

A letter written to Mrs. W.R.L. McBee from John P McDonald, University of Connecticut Librarian, concerning the handmade globe belonging to Jared Sparks. Mrs. McBee had loaned it to them in 1967 before the Historical Society was organized. The Society now has the globe in its possession.

A handwritten political poem referring to Willington residents by their first name and sometimes by the surname - probably written in the 1900's. A note with it gives a few clues as to who these people were.

An agreement between G. Hall Jr. Co. and Stephenson Bros & Co. of Boston in which the latter agrees to act as selling agents in Boston and New York for the Hall Co.'s thread.

A Certificate of Merit; "This certifies that Henry Hall, by diligence and good behavior merits the approbation of his Instructor: M. Dimock

"Roster of the 18th Regt. Conn Vols. published by Utley's of Norwich, Ct in 1890 signed by Mrs. Margaret J. Huntington, South Willington.

Pictures and Stories for the Young, published by Babcock of New Haven with the signature of William Henry Hall on the cover - undated

A deed dated May 30, 1864 between Jason Safford of Windham to Gardiner Hall of said Windham selling a "certain tract or parcel of land with buildings thereon standing situated in the Town of Willington". This refers to an earlier deed dated 1848 which we believe to be the land that Freda Hall (Mrs. Gardiner) now owns.

Four photographs: Given by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Usher, Sept. 1991

1. Merritt Usher, former Selectman, Andy Tomasko, and Lee Royce
2. A group of mostly women employees taken near the Gardiner Hall Jr. Co. probably taken in the 1920's
3. A larger group of Gardiner Hall Jr. employees
4. A group of 12 employees of the Gardiner Hall Jr. Co.

Memorial Day Parade pictures 1979-1991 from Claire Avery

Two photographs of Town Hall when exterior was repainted from John Peterson, Sept. 1991

Town Hall rededication photos from Marjorie Brown - 1989

Town Hall interior pictures before and after 1991 renovation, by Harold Weigold - Sept. 1991
18 photos of Willington's old buildings, taken in 1989 given by Harold Weigold, Jan. 1991
A series of 10 letters, some of which were written by Mrs. Charles Bentley, wife of Rev. Bentley, who was Willington's Congregational minister 1858-1866, given by Michael & Lester Barton of New Jersey, Oct. 1991

COMING EVENTS:

Nov. 8 7:30 PM Dr. N. Bellantoni Town Hall

Nov. 21-22 4-8 PM St. Jude Bazaar at St. Jude Church

March 20 7:30 PM Harold Weigold - Wild Flowers of our area - Town Hall

May 15 7:30 Meeting

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

The costs of mailing, paper and other expenses involved with running off this Newsletter have increased. As a result the membership voted at the September meeting to increase the dues as follows:

Individual	\$3.50
Family Membership	7.00
Corporate	15.00

This is the first increase since the Society was established in 1969.

Dues are payable by November 30 this year due to the delay in notification.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
WILLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Individual Membership.....\$3.50
Family (Husband Wife) Membership.....\$7.00
Corporate Membership.....\$15.00

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:

Harold W. Weigold
48 Red Oak Hill
Willington, CT 06279

Amount Enclosed.....Date.....

I do not wish to join the Society, but would like to continue receiving THE HOURGLASS for \$3.50 a year, which I enclose.

DUES ARE PAYABLE BY SEPTEMBER 30.

ENCOURAGE A FRIEND TO JOIN ALSO

THANK YOU!