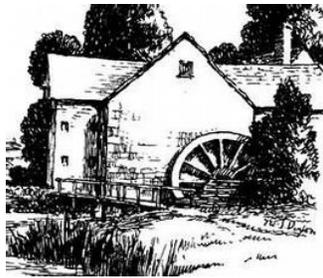
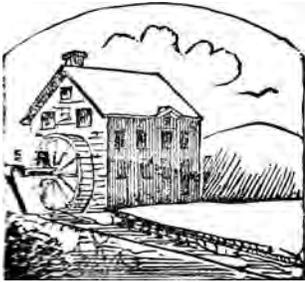


HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ≈ WILLINGTON

January 2014

Volume XLII No. 1



The Willington Historical Society

Presents:

LOST MILL SITES IN WILLINGTON

BY DICK SYMONDS

**Thursday, February 27th, 2014
7:00 PM**

**Willington Public Library
Community Room**

7 Ruby Road

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Historic Willington

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the ability to harness water power played a major role in the development of business and industry in Willington. Many of these sites today are nothing more than a memory for some and unknown to others.

Using numerous photos, Mr. Symonds will discuss the 22 water-powered mill sites in Willington. For each one, he will provide historical information including location, purpose, time period of operation, types of products, characteristics of the mill sites, and types of water power utilized. He will also review the characteristics of the typical mill site, and the types of water wheels used including their operational characteristics.

This presentation is the result of a study that Mr. Symonds has been undertaking since mid summer (2013) for the Willington Historical Society to identify and provide historical documentation on Willington's Lost Mill sites.

Please join us for this FREE program

From: The Presidents Desk

By Bob Shabot



A Penny Saved...

I'm sure everyone can complete the phrase above without thinking twice about it. In keeping with a historical direction, I'd hope that Ben Franklin wouldn't mind my borrowing from his philosophy, since work was also needed to earn our penny, although with a twist.

The penny continues the conversation around the fireplace work progressing at the Glazier Tavern. At the present time, the two brick hearths have been installed and the size of the fireplaces have been roughed out.



'Saved' in this case can best describe our mason, Frank, finding an 1805 large cent in a small pile of broken brick and mortar in the kitchen fireplace during the demolition work. That small pile was about to be

shoveled into the trash bucket.

Whether this penny had been lost, squirreled away in a special place or placed in the wall during construction for good luck so many years ago, it's exciting to see a piece of history appear so unexpectedly.

U.S. large cents were first struck in 1793 and produced until 1857 in a variety of configurations.



The large size of these coins was a result of laws which required the cent to be twice the weight of a half cent coin. When compared to modern coins, the diameter is

half way between a modern quarter and a half dollar. The images that appeared on the coins between 1796-1807 are the draped bust of Lady Liberty and an olive wreath on the reverse, surrounded by the words United States of America. The coin was designed by Robert Scot. All large cents were struck in the Philadelphia mint. The coins weigh 10.9 grams each. The weight of 100(\$1), would be 2.4 pounds.

1805 U.S. history facts: Lewis & Clark reach the Pacific Ocean; Thomas Jefferson's 2nd inauguration; U.S. flag has 15 stars & stripes.

I would suppose this episode would answer the question: Do we ever find anything interesting when working at the tavern?

After all that is said, I would suspect the next question would be: What's a penny worth? At this point, I'll let you be the judge of that.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS AND DONORS

Thank you to those who have renewed your membership for the 2013-2014 year following our September newsletter. And an extra special THANK YOU to people who have answered our appeal for donations: Clyde and Jean Hall, Doris Lake, Paul and Susan Schur, Fred and Polly Streb, Ken Uppling of Heritage Oil, and John, Gloria and Madeline Wraight who gave a gift in memory of Jeffrey P. Wraight.

If you have not renewed your membership, please take the opportunity to do so. These dues help pay for the cost of this newsletter, program presentations, acquisitions of historic significance as well as some of the operating expenses for the Tavern. We also hope to encourage our friends and neighbors to join us for the first time to help support our mission to promote, preserve and celebrate the history of the Town of Willington.

Donations are always gratefully received and are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Unless otherwise specified, donations will be used for the expenses incurred for the restoration and renovation of the Daniel Glazier Tavern.

During 2014 we will be launching a major fundraising campaign which you will be hearing more about in the near future. Your continuing support will be greatly appreciated.

A membership/donation form is included in this newsletter.

TAVERN TIMES



Rum Flip at the Daniel Glazier Tavern - circa 1815

by Melanie Tenney Becker

3 ounces New England rum
2 ounces molasses, sorghum syrup or maple syrup
1 pint stout beer (at room temperature)
Nutmeg to season

Put the loggerhead (fireplace poker) in fireplace embers and leave until very hot.

Mix all above ingredients in a heat proof pitcher stirring to blend thoroughly.

Have a towel handy to mop up the overflow when you plunge the hot loggerhead into the pitcher to heat the drink. Pour into mugs and enjoy while you talk over crops and livestock with several other farmers and look to trade apples for rye seed to plant the new small field you just cleared!

The term describing two people “at loggerheads” comes from the all too frequent occasion when tavern goers sampled too many flips and while arguing vehemently, in a bit of an alcoholic stupor, they might have used the drink heating long irons on each other!! By the 1820's the average farmer, blacksmith, judge, cooper, doctor, lawyer or laborer was consuming over five gallons of rum per year in addition to beer and hard cider. Most of the alcohol was consumed in the local tavern. Even on the Sabbath men in Willington might have traversed the short path from the meetinghouse on the green to the tavern and back again between the morning and afternoon services!

On the other hand, social drinking for women was not acceptable. The Glazier Tavern, like many New England taverns, would have had a large taproom with benches and tables for the local men, and a small parlor-like room for the limited number of non-local ladies who might be traveling.

And traveling was the key reason for Daniel Glazier (b. 1776) to build the Tavern sometime around 1815. He was almost 40 years old at that time and had been married to Elizabeth Holt for sixteen years. The Tavern was built for their son Issac to operate, knowing that the location on the New York to Boston route would bring many travelers to his door.

In 1809, the Tolland County Turnpike (the present Route 74) was built. It ran from the Ellington town center through Tolland, Willington and West Ashford to connect to the Boston Turnpike (now Route 44). The

Tolland County Turnpike was a toll road until 1834 and was part of the developing road system that connected New York City to Boston. The total trip between the two cities was about 215 miles and would take approximately 3 days to complete. If the weather and the roads were good it would involve traveling 50 to 60 miles per day and staying overnight in two taverns or inns on route. Stagecoach passengers and drivers would want to stop for a meal and a change of horses at least once at the end of the day.

We know that taverns in Colonial America were also the centers of town life. They were often used as meeting sites for local politicians and townspeople, served as courthouses for circuit judges, as well as early post offices. They even became performing arts centers when traveling musicians and artists passed through and entertained the townspeople gathered at the tavern. The local tavern received newspapers and handbills and local patrons visited often to listen to such papers being read and to enjoy a link to the world beyond Willington.

The Daniel Glazier Tavern was truly the “place to be”!

Images of America – Willington

by Joe Froehlich. Town Historian



My wife, Trish and I completed the draft of our book *Images of America – Willington* on September 24, 2013. The draft has been submitted to Arcadia Publishing for review. The Production Team

at Arcadia is working on the set of page proofs. The copy editor will review the 17,248 words we wrote.

This project has been very rewarding for Trish and me. We have learned so much about our town. As we interviewed and gathered information from various people we found there was incredible strength and determination by those families who have made Willington what it is today.

Trish and I would like to thank all of the people who provided us with photographs, postcards and information about the town. We would also like to thank the executive board of the Willington Historical Society for providing us access to the numerous photographs and images they had in their archives.

We anticipate the book will be available sometime in the spring of 2014. We will be working with the publisher's marketing specialist to promote the book.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go directly to the Willington Historical Society.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

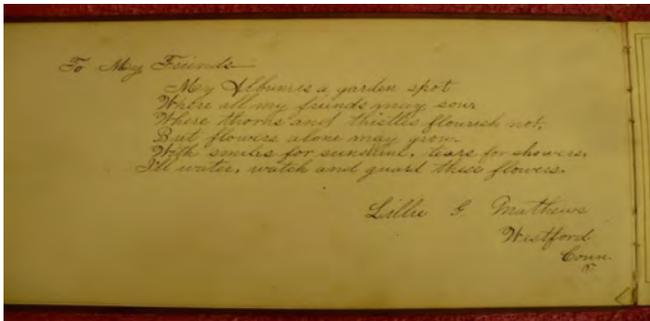
Objects: Autograph book owned by Lillian Gertrude Matthews. Autographs date from 1884 to 1887. Cover has gold and silver floral embellishments on a dark brown background in the Art Nouveau style. School bells used at Center School. Both have wooden handles on brass bells. The smaller one may have been used inside the classroom and the larger one for calling the children outside the schoolhouse.



Measurements:

Autograph book: 7 ¼ inches by 5 inches
 Small bell: 5 ¼ inches by 2 ¾ inches
 Larger bell: 9 ½ inches by 5 ¼ inches

Lillian (Lillie) G. Matthews (May 1868-1913) was born in Connecticut. She lived with her parents, Nathan and Sarah Matthews, and brothers George and Elmer. On the 1900 U.S. Census the family lived in Ashford. Her profession was a primary school teacher. She taught at Center School from 1909-1913. She died at the age of 45 and is buried in the Westford Cemetery in Ashford. Objects were donated by George Matthews in 1997.



Of particular interest is the poem she wrote on the inside cover of her autograph book,

“To My Friends”

My Album is a garden spot
 Where all my friends may sow,
 Where thorns and thistles flourish not,
 But flowers alone may grow.
 With smiles for sunshine, tears for showers,
 I'll water, watch and guard those flowers.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Donations:

*Rag Rug Loom from Ann M. and Fran Kubacka, including an assortment of spools and yarns.

Maker: “Custom Union Loom” Co., Boonville, New York, 1880–1940

Provenance: Purchased at auction by Andrew Kubacka, Jr. in the 1950s. He was employed at Warren Woolen Mills in Stafford Springs in the Weaving Department. Upon his retirement he enjoyed weaving rag rugs on the loom in his home. The loom was passed on to his brother, Edward Kubacka, who also wove rag rugs as a hobby.

*Wooden 5 gal. keg given by Peter & Judy Andersen of Willington.

Thank you for your generous donations!

WHS Contact Information

President: Bob Shabot
we3inct@sbcglobal.net

Vice president: Paul Weigold
pweigold52@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Sue Schur
sue.b.schur@snet.net

Secretary: Catherine Lynch
catherin.lynch@sbcglobal.net

Committee Chairs:

Publicity: Dave Schreiber

Acquisitions: Lisa Ferriere

Membership: Betty Robertson

Ways & Means: Melanie Tenney Becker

Program: Joe Froehlich

Website manager: Marion Dooling

Town Historian: Joe Froehlich
Willingtonhistorian@charter.net

Willington Historical Society
 P.O. Box 214
 Willington, CT, 06279

Email: willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Website: www.willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org

LIKE US on FACEBOOK

Willington Historical Society

2013-2014 Membership Application

Annual membership from October 1, 2013 until September 30, 2014

STUDENT	\$10.00	
INDIVIDUAL	\$20.00	
FAMILY	\$30.00	
CORPORATE	\$50.00	
LIFE (Individual or Family)	\$250.00	
DONATION (tax deductible)		
TOTAL		

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WILLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME(S) _____

STREET _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

(OCCASIONALLY, WE MAY SEND INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PERTAINING TO PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY- WE WILL NOT SHARE YOUR ADDRESS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS.)

DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL IN LIEU OF PAPER COPY? YES _____ NO _____
(Advantages = color photos, one of the first to receive it and saves postage and copy costs!)

WILL YOU HELP???? PLEASE CHECK SPECIAL INTERESTS.

SERVE AS AN OFFICER/ATTEND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS _____

HELP WRITE THE NEWSLETTER _____ **HELP PREPARE IT FOR MAILING** _____

HELP PLAN AND SETUP SPECIAL EXHIBITS _____

HELP INVENTORY AND CATALOG ACQUISITIONS _____

HELP WITH PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM PLANNING _____

HELP WITH FUND RAISING _____

PARTICIPATE IN WORKDAYS AT THE TAVERN _____

PLEASE INCLUDE IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS ON OTHER SIDE
Mail to: Betty Robertson, Membership Chair, Willington Historical Society,
P.O. Box 214, Willington, CT 06279