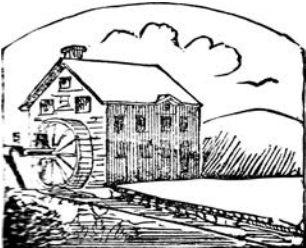


HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ≈ WILLINGTON

January 2015

Volume XLIII No. 1



The Willington Historical Society

Presents:

THE LOST MILL SITES OF WILLINGTON CT

**BOOK SIGNING & PRESENTATION
BY RICHARD N. SYMONDS, JR.**

Tuesday, January 27th, 2015

7:00 PM

**Willington Public Library
Community Room**

7 Ruby Road

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(Snow date Thursday, January 29th)

During the last year, an intensive study of Willington's lost mill sites, under the auspices of the Willington Historical Society, was conducted by Mr. Richard N. Symonds, Jr., of Tolland, CT. The idea was to locate and document the water powered mill sites in Willington and provide a historical perspective as to their purpose, function and operations.

Nine waterways throughout the town provided water to power Willington's 23 documented historic mill sites. Each of Willington's water-powered mills is described in some depth as to location, site characteristics, products, operators, millers and period of operations.

Water rights were problematic from time to time during the period of mill operations. One such issue became a landmark water rights suit in 1885, involving the owner of the Daleville Mill.

Mr. Symonds will discuss some of the highlights of his most recent book, *Lost Mill Sites of Willington, CT*, with a photo presentation followed by a question and answer period.

**Signed copies of this recently published book
will be available for sale at \$25.00.**

Please join us for this FREE program

From: The President's Desk

By Bob Shabot



In celebration ... we come together

Thinking about this 'season' of celebrations, which occurs near the end of one year and at the start of the next, there is an interesting connection that draws me in. All of our modern festivities include brightening our surroundings with light. The light can be as subtle as a flickering candle, as bright and glaring as electric bulbs or as interesting as the ever changing, licking flames of a wood fire. My investigation shows that the use of light can be traced to the ancient celebration of the Winter Solstice. The Solstice is still observed in parts of the world, with large bold fires that mark the shortest day of the year, with the hope that the ensuing longer days will bring renewed warmth and growth to the earth. So today, the borrowed light celebrates the joys and hopes of our present variety of holidays. Oops, I almost forgot the eating, drinking, music and conversation for good measure, of course.

The Willington Historical Society members have a number of reasons to celebrate this season. In the summer of 2014, the exterior of the tavern was painted. We completed the fireplace restorations in the Keeping Room and Taproom. We started to digitize our collection of photographs in the Society's archive. Our members and supporters have been generous with their gifts. Lastly, we were able to start sharing the warmth and hospitality of the season with our Willington Community at the Glazier Tavern. (The turnout for the community tree lighting was beyond expectations!)

Another celebration occurred on November 22, 2014. I attended the memorial celebration in Wellesley, MA, to applaud the life of the Society's benefactor, Mr. Edward Baker Williams. (Mr. Williams gifted the Tavern and property to the Historical Society in 2009.) Mr. Williams died on Nov. 7th, at the age of 103!

I had come to know Mr. Williams over the years, as a real New England Yankee, (I enjoyed that) who chose his words carefully, played his cards close to the vest, had more than a passing interest in all sorts of things and was generous. What I just learned about him was that he was

an accomplished musician, both vocally and instrumentally. He had degrees from Tufts and Brown Universities. He was a linguist by profession and taught himself Portuguese at the age of 101. He was a Scout Master for many years. He also wrote poetry and musical scores and he was a decorated WW II veteran.

Many stories were shared of a long life, well lived.

Thank you Mr. Williams!

Bob Shabot, President
Willington Historical Society

APPEAL FOR MEMBERS AND DONORS

Happy New Year! It is never too late to become a new member or renew your membership in the Historical Society. 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 hope all our friends and neighbors will join us to help support our mission of promoting, preserving and celebrating the history of the Town of Willington.

Our fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2015. PLEASE NOTE: if your address label has the numerals "9/2015" you are PAID UP through September. Any additional payment will be considered a direct donation to our Museum Fund.

AND, we do need more than just members' dues. Monetary donations are a necessary part of our existence, especially as we continue to renovate and re-purpose the Glazier Tavern for programs, displays, office and research space.

The Willington Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Donations may be made in the form of checks, or by credit card through our website, www.willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org. Just click on "Donations" which will display a "Donate" button. If you have any questions, you may email us at willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or call Susan Schur, Treasurer, 860-429-2148. A membership/donation form is included in this newsletter.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

We would like to acknowledge those who have contributed generously since our last newsletter:

Clyde & Jean Hall, Bruce & Doreen Lyon, Scott Mather, Reid & Riege Foundation, Maurice Stapleton

And

John & Gloria Wraight, Madeline Wraight in memory of Marge Carpenter (who grew up in Willington and taught 1st to 5th grades in a one room schoolhouse in Willington in the 1930's)

Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!!!!

GIFTS RECEIVED FOR OUR COLLECTION

The Historical Society is grateful for numerous gifts that members of our wider community have generously donated for the collection. These include:

Items from the Willington Wild Animal Farm, including a roll of unused admission tickets, a pennant, and photographs: given by Kevin Tupper, Carol Pramberger and Ellen Hagen.

Wrought iron 3 foot long ladle: given by Peter Andersen.

Wooden spouts (suitable for kegs): given by Chris & Kathy Demers.

A pair of early 19th century rod back Windsor chairs: given by Robert Shabot and Christine Psathas

Numerous items, including seam binding and thread from the Hall Thread Co, a book-
“Commemorative Biographical Record of Tolland and Windham Counties, c1903: given by Betty Robertson.

An early manufactured glass bottle, a book-*History of Tolland County*, by J.R. Cole, c.1888, a pamphlet-
“History of the Town of Willington”, c.1920: given by the Estate of Larry Spees (born 9/9/1946, died 6/21/2013) who grew up in Willington.

A framed map of Tolland County, c.1934, printed by The Riverside Press, Mystic, showing historic events in each of the Towns in the county, including a sketch of “The Old Stagecoach Tavern on Willington Hill” (the Historical Society’s building now referred to as the Daniel Glazier Tavern): given by Darryl and John Peters.

Willington Historical Society

2014-2015 Membership Application

Annual membership from October 1, 2014 until September 30, 2015

STUDENT	\$10	
INDIVIDUAL	\$20	
FAMILY	\$30	
CORPORATE	\$50	
LIFE (Individual or Family)	\$250	
DONATION (tax deductible)		
TOTAL		

NAME(S) : _____

STREET: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP : _____

PHONE : _____

*EMAIL : _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WILLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(*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!)

**Mail to: Betty Robertson, Membership Chair, Willington Historical Society,
 P.O. Box 214, Willington, CT 06279**

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

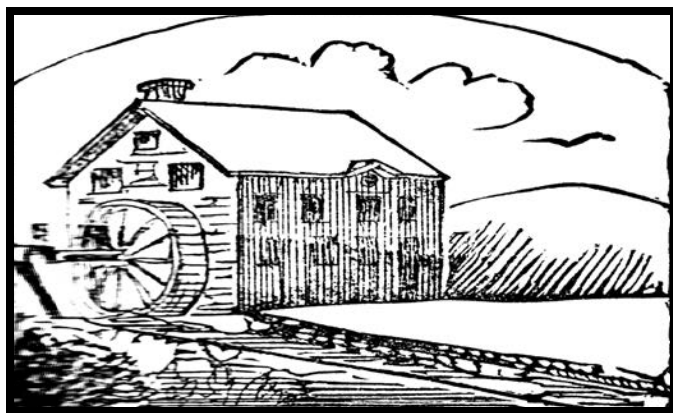
WHS Contact Information

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@charter.net

Committee Chairs:

Publicity: Dave Schreiber
Acquisitions: Lisa Ferriere
Membership: Betty Robertson
Ways & Means: Vacant
Program: Joe Froehlich
Website manager: Marion Dooling
Town Historian: Joe Froehlich -Willingtonhistorian@charter.net

Email: willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Website: www.willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org
LIKE US on FACEBOOK



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