



# WILLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hourglass - A quarterly newsletter of the Willington Historical Society

March 2019

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The Willington Historical Society  
invites you to a special program

## Statues, Boulders and Monoliths World War One Memorials of Connecticut Presented by Richard Franklin Donohue

Wednesday, April 17th  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Office Building  
Common Room  
40 Old Farms Rd.

**FREE and OPEN to ALL!**  
Donations are always appreciated  
**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN INTERESTING  
EVENING**



### Statues Boulders and Monoliths: World War One Memorials of Connecticut

Have you noticed the stone memorial on Willington's Town Green? Would you like to know more about how that monument came to be? As the First World War ended, American communities hurried to memorialize the great efforts of their sons and daughters. Changes in cultural and civic ideals since the American Civil War led to extensive public discourse about what memorials should and should not be. Government leaders, artists, historians, and the monument industry itself promoted ideas from simple tablets to monoliths rivaling those of Egypt and Rome. Memorials throughout Connecticut exemplify this entire range of monumental styles.

Having visited and cataloged more than 200 monuments throughout the 169 towns in Connecticut, Richard Franklin Donohue will display images of the monuments and share stories of their design, placement, and those persons whom they memorialized. Special attention will be given to those people and memorials of Willington and the surrounding area.

This program will last approximately 1 hour, including a slide show of the memorials accompanied by musical recordings of the period.

Mr. Donohue is the Town Historian of his hometown of Cromwell, CT. His original research has formed the basis of museum exhibits, lectures, and living history programs on topics ranging from 18th-century slavery to Civil War era subscription balls to early 20th-century marine engines. As President and Program Director of the Cromwell Historical Society for nearly fifteen years and a teacher in both public and private schools for twenty-five, he strives to enhance interest and participation in local and national history. In addition to his work with history, Richard is a tenor soloist specializing in Middle English Carols, Bach arias, and German Lieder and is the director of the 1876 Singing Society at Mystic Seaport.

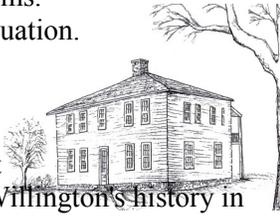
# TAVERN TIMES

Winter turns to Spring . . . and the Willington Historical Society is still indoors for the colder months. But don't get the idea that the Society is in hibernation!! That's far from the truth, although we have been known to stop and linger in front of the fire for a little extra heat. With the Town's history behind us, or with restoration projects, we're always in catch up mode. We're always trying to better understand what happened in our past through the use of our archival items.

It's sort of a "connect the dots" situation.

One dot leads to the next dot of information. Has it been a while since you last played connect the dots? If you'd like to sharpen that skill again and learn snippets of Willington's history in the process, we'd like to invite you in for a game.

Think about it . . .



The fundraiser for our new furnace continues — with \$2,447 raised to date, and with our goal of \$7,500, we wish to thank the following Society members, friends, neighbors and foundations who have contributed to the cause: Dale Smith, Evelyne Parizek, Susan & Bruce Smalheer, Bruce Lyon, Reid & Riedge Foundation (matching Bruce Lyon), Christine Psathas & Bob Shabot, Corrine Passardi, Clyde & Jean Hall, Chopeta Lyons & Mark Palmer, Karen Rabe, Robert Wilkins, Lisa Ferriere, Sue & Paul Schur, Thomas Smith, Anne Sylvia, Ellie Lowell, Fred Glazier, Doris Lake, Maurice Stapleton, The Hall Foundation, Inc., Randy Belair, as well as several anonymous donors.

## Other News

OMG . . . what a great turnout for the tree lighting on the Town Green for the Christmas season! Thanks to all those folks who stopped in at the Glazier Tavern for some refreshments, conversation and warmth by the fires. It was good to have you all there!

Code Compliance Study/Report . . . This report was completed in December 2018, and filed with the Willington Building and Fire Officials. The report identifies areas and items in the tavern that need to be addressed in order to meet present day building codes, allowing for greater public use of the building. Fortunately, most of the items are quite easily accomplished. However, the need for an accessible toilet room will require gutting and reconfiguring the existing first floor toilet room. The estimate for this work is \$8,000, which isn't included in our budget at the present time. This is definitely a work in progress.

As an off-shoot of the Willington Garden Club, there was an interest to research and plan a period kitchen garden on the East side of the Tavern building. Anyone interested in joining this effort may contact Pam Wheeler at 860-429-9804 for more information.

A split-rail fence is in the planning stage. The hope is to construct a New England style rail fence along our small field that faces Common Road. Making it a reality is dependent on several things: (1) getting a certificate of appropriateness from the Historic District Commission; (2) splitting the rails for the fence. Hope springs eternal; the trees have been cut and the logs are waiting. If you're handy with a maul and wedges, or would like to learn . . . contact the Society.

Monthly Meetings . . . The Historical Society holds monthly meetings, on the third Tuesday at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the Town Office Building at 40 Old Farms Road, during the fall and winter months, and at the Glazier Tavern on the Town Green during the warmer weather. The meetings are always open to all those interested in the history of Willington and the on-going activities of the Society.

## From The President's Desk



### Forward Through 2019 ...

**For the Historical Society, that's a resolution to start the New Year with some straight talk about the Society and our ability to continue moving into the future. The facts are: (1) paid memberships are down although our costs are not; (2) many of the board members have served for nearly 20 years and would like to move on to other supporting roles; (3) our webmaster is leaving us this Spring; (4) we need fresh and new ideas, to continue moving the Society forward; (5) we need help organizing our paper and photo archives.**

**So ... that's the long and short of looking realistically at our New Year of 2019.**

**No, we won't be closing up shop in the near future, but for those in our community who enjoy the work of the Society and interacting with us at the Glazier Tavern, please spread the word. We really could use an infusion of new blood in 2019!**

**To wrap up my comments here, I would ask you to consider this final thought, attributed to Poor Richard in 1757...**

**" 'Tis hard for an empty sack to stand upright."**

**Bob Shabot, President**



## WHS Contact Information

**President: Bob Shabot - [rbshabot@icloud.com](mailto:rbshabot@icloud.com)**

**Vice President: Mark Masinda - [mmasinda@charter.net](mailto:mmasinda@charter.net)**

**Treasurer: Sue Schur - [sue.b.schur@snet.net](mailto:sue.b.schur@snet.net)**

**Secretary: Paul Schur - [paul.m.schur@snet.net](mailto:paul.m.schur@snet.net)**

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### **Committee Chairs:**

**Acquisitions: Lisa Ferriere**

**Membership: Betty Robertson**

**Program: This could be you!**

**Publicity: This could be you!**

**Ways & Means: This could be you!**

**Website manager: Marion Dooling**

**Town Historian: Mark Palmer- [historian@willingtonct.org](mailto:historian@willingtonct.org)**

**Ass't Historian (genealogy): Paul Weigold- [pweigold52@yahoo.com](mailto:pweigold52@yahoo.com)**

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**Willington Historical Society**

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