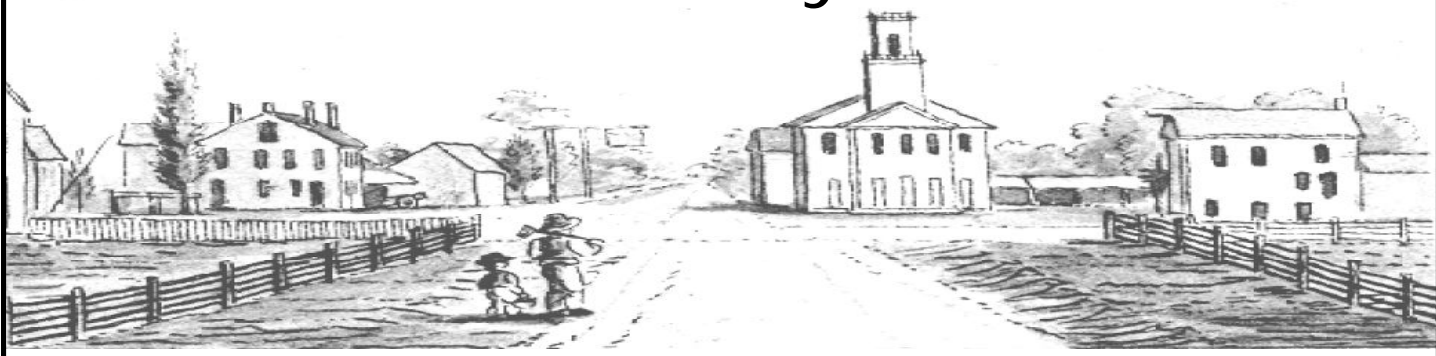


The Wintonbury Drummer



Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society

Bloomfield, Connecticut

March 2004

Next meeting: April 7, 2004 7:30 p.m.

Location: Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center, 330 Park Ave., Bloomfield, CT

Program: History of Griffin Line through Bloomfield

Speaker: WHS Historian Fred Hesketh

President's Message

Our February Meeting with Spencer Shaw did prove, as Secretary Libby Merrow stated in her minutes "he would be erudite and learned." His presentation was absolutely that. As in the past, we were able to present Spencer with a video, through courtesy of Charlie Dechand, a copy, which Spencer said will be part of his collection given to the U. of Washington, where Spencer is a retired Professor of the School of Information Department.

At the April Meeting, Historian Fred Hesketh will again, present his well documented talk, with a history of the Griffin line through Bloomfield. Fred has worked with Bob McComb on a series of Historical and current photograph of various points on the line. Lucy Wirsul, Education Committee chairman, will have a guest, who during her report, will make a demonstration of how we can preserve our pictures.



Under the direction of the Financial Development Committee, May will be a busy month with planned fund-raising events for the Filley Fund - May 1st Flea Market/Tag Sale and bake sale; and May 16th House Tour.

The Town Attorney has advised us that the DECD grant is now in the hands of the Attorney General's office.

Fannie R. Gabriel,
President

Dollars for History

The Dollars for History Financial Campaign is still in progress. Ask your friends and neighbors to support the Filley House (our new home) rehabilitation project with a \$5 or \$10 tax deductible contribution. We encourage Society members to obtain Canisters from Fannie Gabriel (860-242-1016) or Virginia Hallisey (860-243-1065).

This and That

We are sorry to have lost these faithful members - Elsie Barnard (long time supporter of the Society); Dwight Burnham (Past President, Treasurer, and person who set up the Capitol Development Fund); Dr. William Jones III (who presented a lively talk on John Mason, a driving force behind the completion of renovation of SWDS and chairman of the Building Committee); and Joan Winther (long time and faithful attendant of Society).

If our members are not Bloomfield Journal subscribers, I trust you will be soon. There is a goodly amount of Bloomfield news, plus that from WHS, which History you do not get in other papers. There have been recent articles about Virginia Hallisey and Jeanne Hunciker; also an article 2/27 on the Southwest District School.

Pleased to see that our member Billie Anthony received recognition in a recent Courant article about the black Governor's Ball-that she instigated for her students at the Fox Middle School, who researched the black governors existence. It is my understanding that she was the inspiration, through a Carmon Arace Student, where Billie now teaches, for the rejuvenation of the house at 108 Tunxis Ave. (one of the houses on our May 16th House Tour).

We congratulate Fred Hesketh on his publication of 125 Year History of the Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield.

Fannie R. Gabriel, President

Properties Open for Viewing

Old Farm School

1-4:00 p.m.Sundays May 16 through October 10th

Southwest District School

11 a.m. - noon first Saturday of each month May through October

Committee Reports

Acquisition Committee: A formal acquisition policy is being developed. If you would like to help with this committee's work contact the chairman.

Judge Jerry Wagner, Chairman

Education Committee: Those interested in the Old Wintonbury Burying Ground please call Lucy (860-242-1624) if interested.

Lucy Wirsul & Libby Merrow, Co-Chairman

Membership Committee:

Welcome new members!

Homer Guilmartin, Bloomfield

Spencer Shaw, Bloomfield

Jean Buscarello, Chairman

Newsletter: The deadlines for the newsletter, are for material to be received by Fannie the weekend before each of the regularly scheduled Board Meetings. For the remainder of 2004 the deadlines are:

May 16th (Bd Meeting May 19th)

Aug 22nd (Bd Meeting Aug 25th)

Oct 17th (Bd Meeting Oct 20th)

Fannie Gabriel & Janis Langston

Website Committee: What's New: 1) On the Resources Page - "The Browns of Wintonbury, Makers of Brown Drums" submitted by Fred Hesketh and 2) a new page for the House Tour 2004. There is lots of space available to expand the website content, so please submit information. If you are working on a project and would like to share it with the world, or if you would like to expand the material already available on the site, please contact me and we can make the information available as part of the resources of the Society on its website.

Janis Langston, Webmaster

Flea Market/Tag Sale

May 1 (Rain Date May 2) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at the Old Farm School

This popular event allows members, and friends
to donate their "treasures (?)" and receive a tax credit
or rent a space to sell your wares yourself - **\$20.00 for a 20' x 20' space.**

Items being donated may be brought to the Old Farm School
at the corner of Park and School Street on

Sunday, April 25th 2-4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28th 2-4 p.m.

Friday, April 30th 3-5 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to man the WHS tables and bake sale area.

Tracers

Members continue to share their genealogical expertise - and get results - just ask Trudy McDonough what Janis was able to find for her.

Bruce Hale has offered the Tracers Library a wealth of material - New England Historical and Genealogical Registers, New England Ancestors Winter 2003 Handbook for Genealogists-gives information where in the U.S. local municipal offices, etc., material for research, might be found... Also up to date issues of Heritage Quest; Family History and other publications which might be of assistance.

Any one is welcome to use this material - just call Fannie.

Wintonbury Ancient Burying Ground

Angela Hauptman has passed along the latest Connecticut Gravestone News - with notification of meeting April 17 at East Hartford Senior Center. Please call frg if you wish more information.

Sol Cushman is doing yeoman service by typing all the information culled from the stones by members in the fall of 2002.

Stiles Ancient Windsor

Virginia Hallisey has given over Volumes I and II of Stiles Ancient Windsor - I suspect they came from Roberta.

Leaving A Legacy

The Wintonbury Historical Society is a charitable and non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historical sites of Bloomfield, and the memory of the ones who created them.

The Society is in dire need of funds or gifts in order to continue the restorations, and preservations in progress. We are therefore, soliciting the commitment of citizens who value the history of Bloomfield now and in the years ahead.

Listed are a few ways to leave a legacy:

1. Set aside a gift in your will to the Society
2. Name the Society as beneficiary of an insurance policy.
3. Remember your loved ones with a gift in their honor.
4. Name the Society as a beneficiary of your IRA or 401K.

There are several other means, just talk with your financial advisor.

Financial Development Committee

Wintonbury Historical Society
P. O. Box 7454
Bloomfield, CT 06002

2004 Calendar of Events

- Apr 7** **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- May 1** **Flea Market/Tag Sale** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Old Farm School (Rain date: May 2nd)
- May 1** **Southwest District School** (opens for the season) 1st Sat of each month through October 3rd
- May 16** **Old Farm School** (opens for the season) Sundays 1-4 p.m. through October 14th
- May 16** **WHS House Tour** (see article in this newsletter for more information)
- May 31** **Memorial Day Parade** - members are invited to march with the Society
- Jun 2** **WHS Annual Pot Luck Supper with Business Meeting** 6:00 p.m.
- Sept 8** **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Oct 9** **Drum Festival**
- Nov 3** **Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center

Visit the WHS website at: www.bloomfieldcthistory.org

*Submit articles for The Wintonbury Drummer,
the Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society of Bloomfield, to:
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