



Bloomfield, Connecticut
06002

WINTONBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<u>Regular Meeting</u>	November 3	7:30
	Methodist Church (corner School & Wintonbury)	
<u>Speaker</u>	Frederick Hesketh (Society member and Director)	
<u>Topic</u>	<u>Brown's of Wintonbury-Makers of the Brown Drums</u>	

2nd event

As we move into the 50th year of the Society, the vitality engendered by two recent events which brought much town involvement, was phenomenal. October 2nd Drum Festival and the October 16th Filley House open house. At the first, Jeanne Hunciker, and her committee realized \$700--from the mugs, shirts and our publications; and with over 100 attendees, she again realized \$200. At this event Doris Jordan and her Texas niece served light refreshments...donated by Auerfarm. The Chamber's zeroing in on the DRUM--certainly gave the partnership with the town, an added emphasis--for from this Fred Hesketh researched a marvelous history of the Brown's, and the drum. This is the core of the November program. With over 100 attending the Open House--we know that the publicity being offered through Virginia Hallisey, is being noted. For the work of the Building Committee, Ed Stanley, and his hard working committee deserve much applause--which added to persons willing to help--as well as membership applications being offered.

More good news, Jean Buscarello reports 24 docents for the Old Farms School summer openings; 141 visitors and donations and publication purchases of over \$200.00

We were saddened by the recent passing of Paul Pelletier's brother; and long time member Paul Coons (spark behind the book Wintonbury to Bloomfield) We also wish to call attention to the September passing of Harlow Savage--though noted at the September meeting, it was too late to get in that early newsletter.

Since the September meeting we have welcomed, as new members: Carrie Allison, Roxanne Beardsley, Steven and Frances Cobb, James and Mary Gorman, James and Helen Lehmann, Heather Landerman, Martha Mann, Juliette Neaverson, Christine Rhodes. Attorney Jeff Tager and Bette Tuttle.

Paul Pelletier, and his HARD WORKING O! Freedom committee, are making plans for another Society success November 14th, at the Congregational Church.

Capt. Oliver Filley House Update

The past few months have seen much accomplishment at the Filley House, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers. Chief among their number are Bruce Hale, Sr., Bruce Hale, Jr., Judi Sitkin, Marc Sitkin, Mary Murray, Janis Langston and Eric Groenstein. This bunch has managed to label just about every piece of woodwork within the Filley House, in preparation for the removals project slated to be completed by year's end. In addition and in what first appeared to be a monumental undertaking - all of the windows of the house have been removed. This was no small feat given the many layers of old paint cementing in the various parts of each window. After removal, each window opening was carefully fitted with a sheet of plexiglass. This new covering will allow additional light into the house, provide for much-needed ventilation and free up the windows for restoration.

Our volunteer crew has also made several discoveries in the old house. In the first floor front room of the south wing, we uncovered the beautiful, original wide-board flooring beneath layers of tile and plywood. Upstairs, a plastered-over fireplace was uncovered raising more questions since it appears that it was never wood-burning but was just used for a stove-pipe.

Southwest District Schoolhouse Update

As you know by now, the Southwest District Schoolhouse is now in crisis stage with regard to its roof and roof structure. Our architect, Eloise Marinos, is now drawing up a proposal for repair. Based on her cost estimation for roof structure and shingle replacement we will apply for a matching grant from the Connecticut Historical Commission. A volunteer crew recently spent a Saturday morning (10/16) labeling all parts of the roof structure for their possible reuse later in the project. A temporary roof will be installed within one month with a fully restored roof and structure constructed by mid-2000 with expected grant funds.

Special Thanks...

A very special "thank you" to Marc Sitkin for his generous time, labor and expense in producing the magnificent display backdrop highlighting the Filley House project and the Society. Numerous people have been "wowed" by Marc's creation at both the Drum Festival and the Filley House Open House.

Collections/Acquisitions Person Still Needed

We are still searching for a member to take on the vital task of cataloging our fascinating collections as well as developing a storage system. An old listing of our "possessions" is now sadly outdated, and we need to develop an organized plan for collections storage. A system also needs to be developed for our ongoing acquisitions. Please call Fannie Gabriel at 242-1016 to volunteer your time on this important project.

Following our last meeting, Janis Langston has taken the By Laws and put them inSHAPE for your easy reading. As we know, it is imparative,for needed grants, to make some changes. Our sincere thanks to her. *(separate piece)*

*Fannie R. Gabriel -
President*