

The Wintonbury Drummer



Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society

Bloomfield, Connecticut

August 2007

Next meeting: September 5, 2007 7:30 p.m. (*Note change in date & location*)

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

Program: Stories of the one Room Scotland District School

Speakers: Robert McComb

President's Message:

This has been a very busy Spring into Summer with continual scheduled meetings providing an Office and Library space for WHS (this the result of an outright gift and potential anonymous gift) George Merrow's report to be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

May I suggest, if you have not already done so, visit the Old farm School. Angela Hauptman and Charlie Regini have made the whole interior shine, and given it an entirely new look at the entrance. Hours still are Sundays from 1-4 pm through the middle of October.

Following the June 6th Annual Meeting, word was received of the National Register approval for the Filley House. Sharon Steinberg's remarkable story of the Filley's was given good exposure via the Bloomfield Journal. We are awaiting word of the actual acceptance of the designation to be placed on the house.

The discussion of various fund raising ideas at the Annual Meeting, included the idea of updating Over Tunxis Trails — this is up and running - thus members are traversing the Bloomfield streets to ascertain how accurate the 1935 and 1965 information is

Auer Farm has invited WHS to participate in the September 15th Fair—anyone interested in helping at this event, please call Fannie.

Hope to see you at the September 5th meeting, Bob McComb, our Program Coordinator, does such a good job.

Fannie R Gabriel, President

Our Publications

Wintonbury to Bloomfield (\$16.50), Images: Old Bloomfield (\$20., or to a member \$18.); History of the Bloomfield Catholic Church (\$15); Barnard Genealogy (\$10.); Good Old Days (\$10.); Cook Book (\$7.); Over Tunxis Trails (\$5.); Bicentennial Activities (\$3); Note Paper (8 pk - \$3.); Filley House T shirts (\$12.); Brown Drums and Brown family (\$10.).

To order these items send a check in the above amount plus \$3. for S & H to: Wintonbury Historical Society, P.O. Box 7454, Bloomfield, CT 06002

This and That

On the 9th of June, the Old Farms School was open to the Public, as part of the 2007 Connecticut Open House Day sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. 16 visitors came to the school—from out of town. The Bicycle Tour, which Judy Sitkin developed in 1999 puts us on this list—and it may be of interest that we still receive many referrals—even as far away as California.

The Society is now in possession of a stove donated by O.J. Filley. Barbara Filley Gardiner was instrumental in getting it to us. Charlie Regini was good enough to pick it up from Hartford for us. It is now in the school where our artifacts are being stored. It may be this is a Filley stove—and I am hoping that Barbara may be able to give us some background on it.

Volunteer Opportunity: Is there a member who has a burning desire to help us with publicity?—also anyone with a green thumb—and likes gardening—to keep watch over our garden at the Old Farm School. Charlie Regini did a grand job of weeding—and using his garden skills to make the school more presentable. Our thanks for your consideration

Fannie R. Gabriel, President

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: No report

Financial Development Committee: Plans are under way for the Annual Tag Sale, April 28th, at the Old Farm School.

Winnie Granger, Chairman

Membership Committee:

No new Members

Jean Buscarello, Chairman

National Register Committee: On March 6, our application to have the Filley House put on the National Register of Historic Houses was approved by the State. The application will probably be reviewed some time this summer and approved in the fall.

Sharon Steinberg, Chairman

Newsletter: The deadlines for the newsletter, are for material to be received by Fannie. For 2007 the deadlines is:

Oct 21st

Fannie Gabriel & Janis Langston

Website Committee: Because of the website WHS continues to receive research requests with regard to historical places and people of Bloomfield. WHS has also received donations of historical items pertinent to Bloomfield because the donor found us via the website.

So, 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

WHS Library/Office Building Update

The Evaluation Committee has decided the building site should be behind the Old Farms School and that a barn style building would be appropriate. We expect to to contract with a builder whose business is “Post and Beam” buildings and has done some very nice work. We are proceeding to do soil testing to prepare for Wetland and Town Plan and Zoning applications as soon as possible.

George Merrow, Chairman

In the past several, members were involved in Wintonbury Tracers. Their Library has been in the care of Sol Cushman (member) and like the three cemetery books I have (frg) Wintonbury, Latimer Hill and Old St. Andrews, if any member wishes to use for research (until we have office space) they are welcome to come to my apartment to do research (we can get Sol's easily).

Fannie Gabriel, President

Tracer's Library

The Source Guidebook of American Genealogy; Ancestors-Beginner guide; British Genealogy in the Watkinson Library (Trinity College); Cousin's Data Base-compiled by Charlie Dechand-includes 32,5000 entries and 262 families; Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry-including American Families with British Ancestry.

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

Calendar of Events

2007

- Old Farm School open Sundays through the middle of October (1 - 4 pm)
- Sept 5 WHS Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Sept 15 Auer Farm Fair
- Nov 7 WHS Regular Meeting Slides of Bloomfield Homes continued from Annual Meeting
- Dec 4 Co-Sponsor program at Prosser Library under auspices of Hartford Preservation Alliance

2008

- Feb 6 WHS Regular Meeting letters from seaman Burton Lynde Gabrielle, Spanish American War
- Apr 2 WHS Regular Meeting Nancy Finley of CHS
- Apr Flea market/Tag Sale Preview for members and friends (4 - 6 pm)
- Apr Flea market/Tag & Bake Sale (rain date TBD) Old Farm School (8 am - 3 pm)
- May 18 Old Farm School opens for the Season (1 - 4 pm)
- Jun 4 WHS Annual Pot Luck Supper with Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.

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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