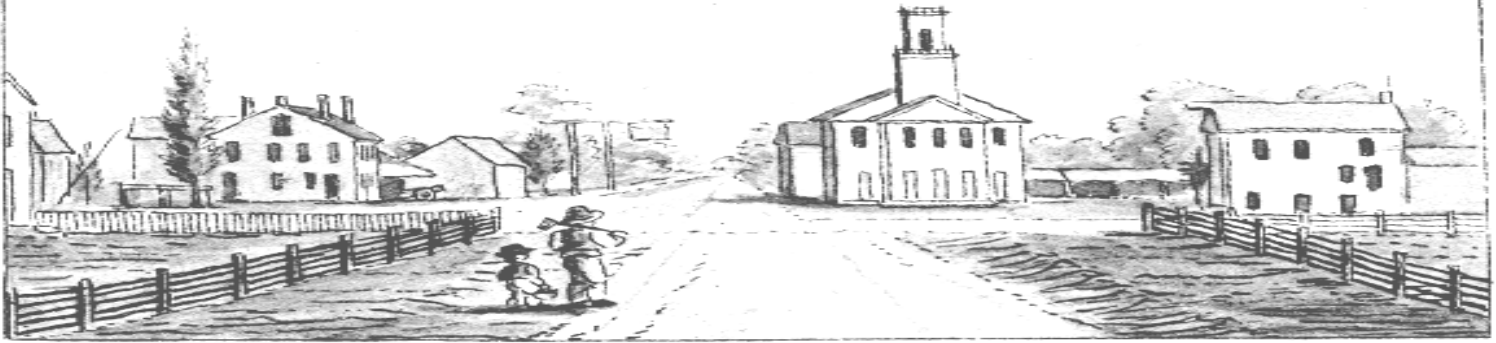


The Wintonbury Drummer



Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society
Bloomfield, Connecticut ***February 2001***

Next meeting: Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m., February 7, 2001
Methodist Church: School Street and Wintonbury Ave., Bloomfield

Program: Estelle Taylor: “Before Jackie Robinson” -

An early African American experience in the sports world - the story of John Taylor, a Hartford baseball player who attracted the attention of several national baseball teams.

President’s Message:

Members of the Wintonbury Historical Society have been hard at work, through the Umbrella Committee, providing research to our architect, Eloise Marinos, relative to the restoration of the Filley/Pinney/LaSalette House. We still are awaiting the approval from the Bond Commission for our \$18,000 grant for the Southwest District School; however, as noted in the newspaper, we are asking for bids to see that a temporary roof is put on, and the building stabilized.. Our architect has sent off the necessary paperwork for the \$200,000 grant, and for review to the National Register for the house. Another piece of good news — hope all saw the paper in which it was announced that our Education Chairperson, Judi Sitkin’s, collage of Bloomfield sites was the top choice for the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce’s 2001 phone book — our congratulations.

Since 1998, as a portion of the partnership with the Town, we have been serving at the receptionist’s desk. If any member would like to become a part of this team, please advise this officer — great way to meet your friends, but more importantly, we have been able to direct literally hundreds of residents to their rightful destinations. We are there Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11-2.

As we move into our 51st year of historic preservation in Bloomfield, I trust you will be able to join us in the planned programs and events.

As I write this, I am sorry to report on the passing of two very active members of WHS — Burr Curtis and Bunny Merritt. Our sympathy to the families.

See you at the February meeting!

Fannie Gabriel, President

Filley House Restoration Fund

During the last four months since our last listing of donors, contributions have continued to flow in for the Filley House Restoration Fund. In our effort to update members on the progress of the campaign, we should like to acknowledge with deep gratitude for recent gifts and pledges received from the following:

Anonymous	H. Richard McLane
Cigna Corp. (Matching)	Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Mercier
Frances & Stephen Cobb	Mobil Corp. (Matching)
Mae DiFabio	Robert Painter
Fannie Gabriel	Susan & Charles Regini
Eunice Groark	Elizabeth & Edmund Speer
Mr. & Mrs. Hillerd Kania	Jerry Wagner
Mass. Mutual (Matching)	Wintonbury Tracers
Robert & Alice McComb	

To date, \$45,917.62 has been raised — \$39,067.62 in donations, \$5,800 in pledges, and \$1,050 in matching grants. Again, thank you to the many who have already contributed. If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so and would like to make a donation, please send your contribution to: The Wintonbury Historical Society, Filley House Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 7454, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002.

Jeanne M. Hunciker

New Members Since October

Welcome!

Frances A. Moulton

Frances W. Cormus

Albert B. and Rosamond A. Lawson

Maude A. Emerson

Mr and Mrs William Lidgerwood

Jean Buscarillo, Membership

Book Reviews from the Wintonbury Historical Society Collection...

By Judi Sitkin, Education Director

The WHS recently acquired, by donation, a collection of books relating to Native American history in Connecticut and the United States. I chose three books that I had not previously read to start off a new section of our newsletter. We encourage our members to read books in our collection and contribute to this column.

The first was *First Encounter: The Indians and The White Man in Connecticut* by Chandler Whipple, 1972, The Berkshire Traveller Press, Stockbridge, MA. A quick and illuminating read. We are introduced to Connecticut and New England Native American history dating from 17th century, pre-European immigration to mid-twentieth century Connecticut (pre-Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun). This is an excellent, basic history book that provides an overview of cultural, religious and community life of the Connecticut groups during this period. The devastating conflicts with European settlers is recounted with good detail of the known and suspected causes and repercussions. Colorful stories and incidents involving well-known personages, such as Chief Sequassen (who sold Hartford to settlers), the troublesome English Oldham's of Wethersfield and Windsor's infamous Capt. John Mason, are incorporated. We come away asking ourselves questions like, "What happened to all these Native American groups and their culture?" and "How many different ways has Connecticut been spelled these past 400 years?" Suggested reading level: grades 5 through post-graduate studies.

***Death Comes To The Archbishop* by Willa Cather, c1927 Alfred Knopf, Vintage Books Edition, 1971. Willa Cather is often described as a "pioneer writer." This book tells the story of the influx of Christian missionaries in the American Southwest from the European point of view. The influence of Christianity on Native American groups is an ongoing subject. Part of what unfolds is the disparity between the Native concept of religion and community versus the Christian "Civilized" concept of the same. The book is not about Native American life, rather, about how Europeans found it necessary to re-create Europe wherever they lived and their need to instill Christianity and displace existing religious beliefs - in the name of "civilization." This is a passionate story that reminds us how important it is to build good, honest bonds amongst our neighbors, friends, and relatives. Suggested reading level: grades 5 through post-graduate studies.**

My last choice, *Custer Died For Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* by Vine Deloria, Jr., Avon Books, 1969, takes a hard, critical look at Native American life from a Native American perspective. Although less than 300 pages, this declaration of enigmatic government involvement (Treaty's, Contracts, etc.) is a must for anyone interested in the sociological aspect of Native American history. Written at the height of civil unrest in the United States, Deloria, a former employee with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, gives us a unique, thought-provoking study of American-Indian relations through the centuries. The content is certainly an eye-opener bringing to the fore reasons for us to look critically at ourselves and Connecticut's current events. Suggested reading level: High School and beyond.

The Wintonbury Drummer, the Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society of Bloomfield, welcomes all submissions of announcements, historical articles, photographs, events, articles, quotations, poetry, or ? You may e-mail Sharon Steinberg, Editor, at cd000910@mindspring.com, or contact her at 286-1066, or mail it to her at 12 Regency Drive, #7, Bloomfield, CT 06002; you may also send your submission to Fannie Gabriel, 400 Seabury Drive, #5158, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002.

Wintonbury Historical Society
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