

Keeping The Old Farm School In Good Condition

Just in time, before the rain and snow came, the roof of the Old Farm School was repaired. Jack Kelly, of American General Contractors, restored the sheathing that had been leaking around the bell tower. During the repair work, he found the rope that rings the bell was rotting and hanging on by a mere thread. He put in a new rope for us, so now people can safely pull the rope and ring the bell.

Steve Marshall was called in to inspect the interior water damage, and his bid for the few, but necessary, repairs is now pending the Board's approval.

Both Jack and Steve were asked to check the safety of the second floor, and each one assured us that the floor was structurally sound and safe for a few people at a time to walk up there. Mary Murray is getting quotes for the pointing of the brick exterior, which will be done this spring.

Many thanks to Mary who takes such tender loving care of our historical treasure.

Lucy Wirsul

Filley House Gets Emergency Protection

At the request of the Umbrella Committee, Eloise Marinos, our architect, asked the American General Contracting Company, under the supervision of Peter Kelly, to cap the chimneys and re-flash the front chimney to stop the leaks and to safeguard the house from future animal visitors. We will keep you apprised on more permanent work on the house that is in the planning stages for the near future.

Sharon Steinberg, Research Chair, Filley House

Guest Speaker for February 6th

Dr. Marc Banks, archaeologist, will discuss his early 1990's dig to unearth information about the original settlers for the Scotland distric of North Bloomfield. During his excavation, he found thousands of artifacts that could be linked to the activities of these Native Americans.

Dr. Banks will be the guest speaker at the WHS meeting on Wednesday, February 6th, 7:30 p.m., at the Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center at 330 Park Avenue, Bloomfield.

Refreshments will be served after the brief meeting and presentation lecture.

Kains World Comes to Moore's Sawmill

Moore's Sawmill was featured on a recent segment of Kain's World. Dan Kain's interview with Don Moore was most interesting and showed the sawmill as the background. Don explained its history and the four generations that continuously ran the mill, which remains an important business in the Town of Bloomfield because it not only connects the past with the future but is also a valuable business for the town.

Virginia Hallisey arranged for a copy of this 2 - 1/2 minute segment, which will be shown at our society meeting in February. A copy was presented to Don Moore as well.

Virginia Hallisey

Southwest District School Reopens for Some Former Students

On November 30, the society invited five former students to an open house to observe and comment on the preservation work and new roof. Jack Kelly of American General Contractors, the supervisor of this project, and Eloise Marinos, the architect, joined society members President Gabriel, Bruce Hale, Virginia Hallisey and Mary Murray to greet the guests. Two former students were able to attend: Leslie Watkins and Tom Burnham.

Tom Burnham brought a 1913 photo of his brother Watson's classmate -- one was Leslie Watkins -- in front of the school which Mary Murray copied for the society that same day. Les and Tom had a great time reminiscing about their school days. Les pointed out that the stove was in the middle of the room with a large stove pipe overhead backing into the chimney. The students were lined up in rows by grade, and the teacher's storage room was located in the front of the building. They used to walk over to the well at the William Caldwell house next door for water. Les noticed the remnants of the outhouse, which was located behind the school, but stated it was called the "chick sales." When asked why the "chick sales," he said he wasn't sure because that's what everyone called it. [Is anyone familiar with this expression?]

The first teacher of the Southwest District School was Elizabeth Caldwell who resided across the street. The original wooden structure burned prior to 1834. The stone structure was built in 1858. It closed in 1921.

Mary Murray

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 call 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.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of Marion Shaffer Filley, longtime Bloomfield resident, who died on Tuesday, January 15, 2002 in Leesburg, Virginia. She leaves her husband of 62 years, Col. O.D. Filley, Jr.; her daughter, Barbara J. Gardner; her son, Dwight; two grandsons, Steve and Brian; three great grandsons, Shawn, Austin, and Jason; her sister, Deborah Cave, and their extended families. A memorial and interment will take place in late spring at the Filley plot, Mountain View Cemetery. The family has suggested that remembrances may be sent in her memory to the Capt. Oliver Filley House Restoration Fund.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Alvin Wood, an active participant in Bloomfield life, father of Bea Llewellyn, former longtime library liaison to the Wintonbury Historical Society.

We Welcome Our New Members:

Arlene Friedman

Lynne & Henry Healy

Maxine Goldsmith

Lois Schmidt

Susan Raggo

Barbara Godard

Dr. & Mrs. (Betty) and (Robert) Doherty

Trudy McDonough

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2002 AT SENIOR CENTER!

Wintonbury Historical Society
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