

The Wintonbury Drummer



Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society

Bloomfield, Connecticut

May 2006

Next meeting: June 7, 2006 6:00 p.m.

Location: Sacred Heart Church - Father Picher Community Room
Wintonbury Ave, Bloomfield, CT

Program: Readings from Jay Filley's Diary

A notebook initially kept by Jay Humphrey Filley (1810 – 1883), son of Capt. Oliver Filley, husband of Julia Ann Newberry Filley (1808-1881), followed by entries written by his granddaughter, Grace Ely Filley Bidwell (1867-1952) who was the daughter of James Louis Filley (1840-1906) (called Louis, Jay and Julia's son), and the last entry by Grace's daughter, Dorothy Filley Bidwell (1897-1982). Jay's notes were evidently written – see below – in 1882, after Julia died. The notebook is part of the Filley collection of the Wintonbury Historical Society of Bloomfield.

Speaker: Sharon Steinberg, Research Director

President's Message:

May 8th Bloomfield Town Council voted unanimously to have the Town stabilize the Filley/Pinney/LaSalette 1834 trap rock farmhouse. This officer wishes to thank all members for their fine support of the March 5th concert Belles, Beaus and Buddies—and the 4/29 flea market/bake sale (weren't we lucky with the weather-you know what we've had lately). Please note figures for these events will be found further in the newsletter.

Our June 7th annual meeting will feature our fantastic cooks with their pot luck offerings—followed by meeting wherein committee chairman will offer their annual reports, nominating report and By Laws Committee recommendation. Our program will feature our Research Director, Sharon Steinberg, giving us a reading from Jay Filley's diaries.

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

We were saddened to read of Steve Meo's recent passing (Eloise Marino's husband). Carrie and Alfred Allison have left us for Atlanta—they will be missed—best to them. Welcome to new member Marion Kelliher of 219 Oliver Way—06002. She was one of our faithful tag sale volunteers—our thanks.

At our last meeting, the membership thoroughly enjoyed the presentation Connecticut State Historian Dr. Woodward gave of his upcoming dig this summer, in the area of the Rossiter 1651 Guilford house.

Another page indicates an offer Re Old Farms Inn—Have a reunion, graduation party, wedding activity-or just regular opportunity for fine dinning?. This is a splendid offer from the Tollys—Life members of the WHS. Hope to hear from you.

Had a call Friday (May12th) from someone who thought he had the Town Hall—thought I might direct him to the right Department—but was looking for Fred Hesketh. Come to find out he was from Casper Wyoming (Conn. born, Trinity Grad)—but owner of 4 FOUR Brown Drums—of course wants Fred's Book. By the time you read this, it will be on its way to Wyoming. Isn't this fantastic???????

Fannie R. Gabriel, President

Tracers

If any member desires some help researching a family—please let me know—(frg)

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

By-Laws Revision Committee: It is being recommended that the office of Corresponding Secretary be eliminated.

Michael Swan, Chairman

Education Committee: No report

Financial Development Committee: Results of March 5th concert for WHS benefit \$889.(including \$150.00 in donations)

Results of the Annual Tag Sale held April 29th, at the Old Farm School \$1230.85 was raised (vendors 450, bake sake 175 and tag sale 605.85)

Winnie Granger, Chairman

Membership Committee:

Welcome new member!

Marion Kelliher of Bloomfield, CT

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 2006 the deadlines are:

Aug 27th (Bd Meeting Aug 30st)

Oct 15th (Bd Meeting Oct 18th)

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

The following is from a notebook initially kept by Jay Humphrey Filley (1810 – 1883)...

The subject of the following sketch was born in what is now Bloomfield March 13th 1810. The House stood near the road in front of the House now owned & occupied by S.P. Pinney, & was for many years occupied by my Father & Grand Father. My Grand Father moved from what is called "Pigeon Hill" in Windsor to this place & died in 1796 my father being only 12 years of age. At this period of his life, the management of the farm was thrown upon him, developing unusual energy & skill in one so young. In 1805 he married Annis Humphrey daughter of Joseph Humphrey of Simsbury. A woman of superior education & strength of character & well calculated to be a suitable partner for a man like Oliver Filley. About the year 1800 my Father engaged in the manufacture & sale of Tin Ware Tin having been introduced into the Town of Berlin from Scotland & having been but little known or used by the people at this period. Wooden ware & pewter ware were ordinarily used in domestic affairs. The tin ware was carried about in baskets & hand carts & found a ready sale at remunerative prices. Subsequently my Father established business in Philadelphia with his younger Brother Harvey Filley also in Lansingburgh, NYork with a brother in Law Augustus Filley. My Father also continued the business for many years at the place now occupied by my son Louis J. Filley in Bloomfield & which m Father bought about the year 1809. This farm he greatly improved taking the first premium of the Hartford County Agricultural society for the best cultivated farm. I speak of the early business life of my Father to show the commendable energy of character which he possessed & which has been manifested by at least some of his children in later years. My Father had six children which grew up to manhood in Oliver Dwight, Marcus Lucius, Jay Humphrey, Giles Franklin & Annis Jennette & John Eldridge. John Eldridge married & settled in Bloomfield & died in 1846. Oliver Dwight learned the Tanners trade of my Father, worked at my Uncle in Philadelphia for a while also in Pittsburgh then in St- Louis where he established a Successful business. He reared a family of seven children, four Daughters & three Sons, His stern integrity his uprightness of character, won for him many friends & he was twice elected to the office of Mayor of St. Louis. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 he was chosen President of the committee of Safety & was largely influenced in checking the rebellion in this border city of the Union. He died at Hampton near Boston after a short sickness at the age of 75 years. Marcus Lucius graduated at Trinity Colledge Hartford Conn Studied Law & finally settled in Lansingburgh NY where he practiced Law successfully for many years. Children two daughters & one son. He has for many years & is now engaged in the manufacture of stoves. Giles Franklin also settled in St Louis & has a family of seven children all boys. He is now & has been since 1853 engaged in the manufacture of Stoves, & his works are said to be equal to if not superior to any in the U States. Annis Jennett married John Chapman & resides in Springfield Mass. I have thus spoken of my Father & his children that a correct understanding may be had of the Oliver Filley Family.

Transcribed by Sharon Y. Steinberg, Curator, Filley House, 2006

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

2006

- May 29 **Memorial Day Parade** (call Fannie if interested in participating)
- Jun 3 Don Moore's **Dulcimer Folk Association of CT** 7:30 p.m. Universalist Church, Fern St, West Hartford
- Jun 7 **WHS Annual Pot Luck Supper with Business Meeting** 6:00 p.m.
- Sept 13 **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Oct **Prosser Library - Book Sale**
- Nov 1 **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center

2007

- Feb 7 **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Apr 4 **WHS 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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Wintonbury Historical Society
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