



# WILLARD NEWS

The Newsletter of the Willard Family Association of America, Inc.



## 99<sup>TH</sup> WFA REUNION HELD IN PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

October 5, 2007 saw 64 people gather at the historic Hotel St. Michael on Whiskey Row to start the 99<sup>th</sup> reunion of The Willard Family Association.

The Hotel is actually on the corner of Gurley and Montezuma Streets. Gurley Street is known as Whiskey Row due to all of the saloons that used to inhabit the street. There are many saloons still there. The hotel elevator is the first elevator installed in the State of Arizona.

Friday evening, everyone gathered in the Hotel Ballroom for dinner. After the meal, Karen Willard, resplendent in her black dress with long embroidered collar and large feathered black hat gave a talk on the life of Francis Lillian Willard Munds, affectionately known as Aunt Fannie.

She was born on a ranch outside of Franklin, California in 1866. She attended Mills Seminary College and then went to Central Institute in Pittsfield, Maine, as her sister and husband lived there. She was the first in the family to attend college. Central Institute is now a preparatory school known as Maine Central Institute.

After college, she traveled back to Arizona with some college friends. She became a teacher, after taking a test to see if she was qualified to teach. She taught in various schools from 1887 through 1889. During this time she became the woman to take a train to California. She met Johnny Munds and they were married in 1890.

They moved to Prescott in 1895 where Johnny became the Sheriff. Fannie became involved with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, eventually becoming its Vice President, and the Women's Suffrage movement of Arizona of which she was the President.

In 1914, she was elected as the first woman senator in the Arizona legislature, only the second woman in the U.S. to serve in a state legislature. She served one term. After that she became a society woman and didn't run for political office again. She died in 1948 at the age of 82.

Saturday morning the Willard Family Association of America annual meeting was held, presided over by President Julia Hendy.

The Treasurers report was provided by Kay Willard. From January 1 thru September 28, 2007 the Association had income of \$7,474.80 and expenses of \$4,506.12. Our various bank accounts have a balance of \$33,454.07 and investments a balance of \$109,137.94 for a total of \$142,592.01.

There was no Historians report however, it was noted that we have someone interested in becoming the Historian once the archival materials are secured.

Webmaster Rodney Willard reported the web site has had 1,636,367 hits so far this year.

Lois Cooley, Scholarship Chair reported that checks were sent to 2006 recipients Ronald Feher, Sara Jost and Justin Young after successfully completing their first semester of college. They all replied with their thanks and appreciation. Four scholarships were presented in 2007 to Timothy Ahlquist, Meredith McCaskill, Melissa Cooley and Rebecca Todd. All have written thanks and appreciation. Rebecca Todd wrote that her Gandmother, Shirley VanMarew, was so pleased to be a Willard, that she signed all her grandchildren up to be members. Checks will be sent in 2008 after their completing the first term of school.

Membership and Necrology report was given by Marjorie Travis, Chair. As of September 30, 2007, the total number of WFA members on our mailing list was 723. Currently 400 of these are Life Members, thereby outnumbering regular dues-paying members. This total also includes 22 overseas members, ranging from Canada to Australia.

There are nine Family Memberships and nine members who are on our "Winter-Summer" list. We carry nine societies and libraries, some of who pay dues and some do not. Since our last reunion, we have added four new Life Members. The WFA website brings in new members as well as many queries.

The list of missing Life Members currently totals 23, some of whom have been out of touch for three or more years. Their names are on the WFA website and are published annually in the newsletter. We very much appreciate the help we receive from you with updated information regarding relatives or friends.

Since our last reunion in August of 2006, we have a necrology list of 16 people, ten of whom were life members.

Newsletter report given by Elizabeth and Robert Swift noted that we send out over 730 newsletters two times a year. We are always looking for interesting articles to put in the newsletter. If you have something you would like to submit, please either e-mail or send by mail to us, see address under Board Members. It was suggested from the floor that we start sending newsletters by e-mail. See more on this further on in this newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned and everyone was encouraged to visit some of the Willard sites in Prescott.

Everyone came back to the hotel ballroom for lunch. After lunch, Dr. Heidi Osselaer of Arizona State University, gave a talk on Women's Suffrage in the West. She has recently written a book on the subject. She noted that presently, five of the top positions in the Arizona government are filled by women. She outlined the progress of the Women's Suffrage movement, noting that a bill was introduced in the Arizona legislature in 1883 that would give women the right to vote, it was defeated. When Arizona applied for statehood, they tried to have the women's voting rights included. When Arizona became a state, the women's vote was excluded.

After Dr. Osselaer's talk, Karen Willard gave a short presentation on Wallace Willard. Wallace was the first cousin of Frances Willard. He was the fourth of five children of Lewis Augustus Willard and Angeline Billips. Lewis's older brother Joel was the first Willard family to come to Arizona, Lewis came at a later time.

Wallace became the Deputy Sheriff under Johnny Munds, Fannie's husband. In 1898 he was a member of the Arizona Rough Riders, serving in the Spanish-American War. After he came back from the War, he was a changed person. He was eventually hired as a guard at the Yuma Prison. His starting pay was \$80.00 a month. He died in California, April 17, 1923, one day after surgery.

Many attendees went to supper Saturday evening at the Palace Saloon, the same Saloon frequented by Wyatt Earp and other notables of the era.

Sunday morning, there was a meeting to discuss the 2009 Reunion. Many suggestions were made with Texas being the first choice. This will be looked into and if arrangements cannot be made, another site will be chosen.

## TERRITORIAL WOMEN'S MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN



The Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, AZ has a rose garden beside the log cabin that was the original governor's mansion. A rose bush is planted for each woman who has been recognized as an important woman in Arizona's history. A brief description of each woman is included in a book in the Library.

The following is from the page of **Frances Lillian Willard Munds**:

"Fannie was born on 10 June 1866 in Franklin, California, the daughter of John (sometimes Joel and sometimes George) Willard, a pioneer of California and Nevada, and Mary Grace Vineyard. Fannie graduated from Central Institute in Pittsfield, Maine, in June 1885.

Her first teaching job was in the Mormon village of Pine, then in Payson, Mayer (where she was the first school teacher) and Jerome. On 5 March 1890 Frances married John L. Munds at the home of her mother in Cottonwood. Wearing a stylish robe of cream albatross plush and moiré with orange blossoms. They lived in Cottonwood where they were in the stock business.

Fannie had three children: William Harold, Sallie Williams and Mary Fran (Mrs. Robert) Brockmeier. In 1893, the family moved to Prescott where John was deputy sheriff for George Ruffner from 1894-1897. He was sheriff from 1898-1903. The Munds bought and lived in the house with the Queen Anne exterior and Victorian interior at 220 North Mt. Vernon, later the Buckey O'Neill home.

Fannie was elected President of the Arizona State Women's Suffrage Organization. "A Prescott woman whose activities embraced every feminist cause in the Territory from woman's suffrage to WCTU and eventually to public service as the state of Arizona's first woman legislator" In 1913 she was appointed by Governor Hunt as representative to the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance in Budapest, Hungary. Of her election in 1914 as the State Senator from Yavapai County and the second woman



senator in the United States, Fannie said: "Our friends, the true-blue conservatives, will be shocked to think of a grandmother sitting in the State Senate."

A picture of Francis Munds when running for State Senator is in Yavapai Magazine, 10-15, 1914, p. 13. Fannie was president of the Monday Club, 1918-19 and Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star. In 1892, Francis was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. She retained her active interest in politics until her death at her home at 308 North Mt. Vernon on 16 December 1948. Fannie is buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

## DESCENDANTS OF JOEL WILLARD



The above picture is of the descendants of Joel Willard who attended the 99<sup>th</sup> reunion. Joel Willard was the son of Alexander Hamilton Willard, Sr., of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery fame. He is descended from Henry-2 Willard in the WFA way of denoting descent.

## BOOK BY PEGGY RICE GROSSER

Peggy Rice Grosser, is a 10th Generation Willard, a WFA member for years.  
Book for Sale:

Peggy Rice Grosser compiled a book, "Grains of Rice ... *with an occasional dash of salt*" about her grandfather, F.O. Rice. He was born in VT in 1834, moved to MN in 1858, & died there in 1927. The compilation of old papers, essays, letters, & family correspondence of F.O. span 100 years (1847-1947). The items were found in the old barn in MN when Peggy's family moved to south TX. The long-kept family papers provide the reader with a journey back in time that tells the struggle of a family to survive, love they shared, the philosophy of the late 1800s and into the turn of the century, the Civil War, women's suffrage, and the western expansion of our country. He was a teacher, surveyor & city manager for Northfield, MN. F.O. witnessed the Jesse James Gang robbery of the Bank in Northfield. The book has 336 pages, 68 illustrations, and 30 photographs. Cost: \$20 + \$5 postage. Peggy published the book in 1998 at the age of 82.

To begin your trip back in time direct all correspondence and book orders to Peggy Rice Grosser, 333 Water St #D-5, Kerrville, TX 78028-5232 or Joella Grosser Schultz, 1200 E. Silvertree Dr., Tucson, AZ 85718-1080

## NECROLOGY 2007

Sandra Jean Hill – Montrose, Michigan  
 Donna Yanish Willard – E. Hartford, Connecticut  
 Dwight Willard Taylor, Life #551 – Eugene, Oregon  
 Annie Willard Block  
 Rev. Helena Palmer Chapin – Rochester, New York  
 Henry L. Willard, Life #189 – Webster, New York  
 Rev. John A. Lampe – Del Ray Beach, Florida & West Dover, Vermont  
 Ruth W. Serozynsky, Life #255 – Saugus, Massachusetts  
 William L. Willard, Sr., Life #507 – Windham, Connecticut  
 Kent E. Howard, Life #363 – Ogunquit, Maine  
 Helen Knudson, Life #540 – Lambertson, Minnesota  
 Merle Willard – Pittsfield, Illinois  
 James K. Walton, Life #530 – Albuquerque, New Mexico  
 Shirley Van Moren, Life #385 – Citrus Heights, California  
 Mrs. Frank A. Simon, Life #4 – Louisville, Kentucky  
 Rodney Willard Hunt, Life #521 – Gorham, Maine  
 Kathleen Lane, Life #216 – Seal Beach, California

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Willard Family Association of America Celebrates 100th Anniversary in 2008

Save the date! Make plans to join your Willard cousins at the 100th Reunion of the Willard Family Association of America, October 17-19, 2008. Tentative plans include headquarters and hotel accommodations in the central Massachusetts town of Devens, with Saturday excursions to nearby Willard-related sites such as Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, several sites in Concord and Willard House and Clock Museum in Grafton. Sunday's schedule will include a motor coach tour of Willard-related sites in Boston, including the Old South Meeting House, the Old State House, Bunker Hill Monument, a traditional Italian lunch at Boston's famous North End, and a Duck Boat Tour of Boston and the Charles River. This promises to be a fun and memorable weekend for all ages!

Plan to bring your children and grandchildren. It will be a great opportunity to introduce them to the Willard legacy and get interested in joining the Willard Family Association. We need younger members.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

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## WILLARD HOUSE CHRISTMAS TEA

Willard House and Clock Museum: 11 Willard Street North Grafton, MA 01536 [www.willardhouse.org](http://www.willardhouse.org)

Christmas Tea: Sunday, December 2, 2007 2:00 4:00 p.m.

Gather with family and friends at the historic Willard House, decorated for the holidays in the Colonial tradition by members of the Grafton Garden Club. Enjoy a cup of tea and homemade pastries in the museum's Main Gallery while listening to live music provided by musicians from Apple Tree Arts. There will be special discounts in the Gift Shop for those seeking an unusual gift, as well as clock making demonstrations in the Clock Shop, children's activities in the Simon Willard Gallery and brief tours throughout the galleries.

Free admission, courtesy of AG Edwards & Sons.

Reservations are requested, but not required.

To make reservations, please call (508) 839-3500 or e-mail [connie@willardhouse.org](mailto:connie@willardhouse.org)



Willard Items make great gifts for Christmas

Coverlets: \$50.00 plus postage of \$9.00

Tote Bags are \$30.00 plus postage of \$3.00

Pillows: \$25.00 plus postage of \$3.00 (limited supply)

Henry 2 Books: \$55.00 plus postage of \$10.00

Reprint of "History of the Willard Family Association of America" by Stephen F. Willard, Jr. (The Blue Book): \$6.00

New colored Coat of Arms suitable for framing: \$29.95 Limited supply of old style: \$14.95

Make check payable to the Willard Family Association and mail to

Catherine A. Willard, WFA Treasurer, P.O. Box 591, Athol, MA 01331-0591

## ARLAN D. WILLARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The WFA is accepting applications for the Arlan D. Willard Memorial Scholarship. The following guidelines will apply to those submitting applications:

1. The applicant or one of their parents or grandparents must be a paid WFA member for at least one year. This includes life members.
2. Requests for applications must be addressed to Mrs. Lois Cooley, Chair Education Committee, 1460 Pleasant Street, Barre, MA 01005.
3. Final Deadline for completed forms is March 1, 2008.
4. Only high school graduates who will be attending college for the first semester in the same year will be considered.

Please note: Confirmation of acceptance at college must be received no later than July 1, 2008. Scholarships will be announced at the WFA annual meeting and recipients will be duly notified. Check will be issued after receiving transcripts of successful completion of first semester.

**WILLARD FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
185 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02420-2126**

**Membership dues for Calendar Year 2008**

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership                                | \$15.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership<br>(spouse and minor children) | \$25.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership                                  | \$250.00 |

**Make your check payable to *Willard Family Association of America, Inc.* and mail to the Willard Family Association, 185 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02420-2126. If you wish to receive a membership card, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have not already done so, please tell us your connection to the Willards.**

**NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL**

A website has been set up for those who would like to receive future newsletters by e-mail. Hopefully everything will be in place for the spring newsletter.

To post to this list, send your e-mail to:  
wfanewsletter@willardfamilyassn.org

General information about the mailing list is at:  
[http://willardfamilyassn.org/mailman/listinfo/wfanewsletter\\_willardfamilyassn.org](http://willardfamilyassn.org/mailman/listinfo/wfanewsletter_willardfamilyassn.org)

If you ever want to unsubscribe or change your options (e.g., switch to or from digest mode, change your password, etc.), visit your subscription page at:

[http://willardfamilyassn.org/mailman/options/wfanewsletter\\_willardfamilyassn.org/rws%40megalink.net](http://willardfamilyassn.org/mailman/options/wfanewsletter_willardfamilyassn.org/rws%40megalink.net)

You can also make such adjustments via email by sending a message to:  
wfanewsletter-request@willardfamilyassn.org with the word 'help' in the subject or body (don't include the quotes), and you will get back a message with instructions.

You must know your password to change your options (including changing the password, itself) or to unsubscribe. It is:dexeerod

Normally, Mailman will remind you of your willardfamilyassn.org mailing list passwords once every month, although you can disable this if you prefer. This reminder will also include instructions on how to un-subscribe or change your account options. There is also a button on your options page that will email your current password to you.

The Willard Family Association of America, Inc.  
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**THE WILLARD NEWS** is published twice a year by the Willard Family Association of America. We invite your comments and suggestions. Robert & Elizabeth Swift, Editors. 119 Hebron Ctr. Rd., Hebron, ME 04238-3327.

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Please send address changes, with old and new address, to Marjorie Travis, 185 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02420-2126. mwtravis @ verizon.net

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