



# WILLARD NEWS

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

## 101<sup>st</sup> Reunion of the Willard Family Association

October 2, 3 & 4, 2009

The 101st Annual Meeting of the Willard Family Association will be held in Texas this year. We have rented the meeting rooms in the restored historic railroad depot in the center of Winnsboro, Texas for our meetings. A number of Willards from the South settled in this farming and lumbering region of northeast Texas at the end of the American Civil War. They established a private family cemetery east of town. Our reunion planner William P. Willard is a native son of Winnsboro and has outlined a wonderful group of activities to educate and entertain us. We look forward to seeing you in Texas.

### REUNION SCHEDULE

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**

- 3:30 PM: Executive board meets  
 5:30 PM: Supper in Depot Center with a catered meal  
 by Double C Steakhouse.

#### *Evening Speaker:*

William P. Willard, native son of Winnsboro and member of the Board of Directors of The Willard Cemetery Association.

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**

- 9:30 AM: Annual WFA business meeting.  
 Carpool to the Willard Cemetery.  
 12 Noon: Casual catered Pizza buffet lunch at the Willard Cemetery. Viewing of points of interest under the guidance of William P. Willard.  
 Carpool back to the Depot Center.  
 3:00 PM: Afternoon lecture at the Depot Center on the history of the region by local historian and writer Bill Jones. Supper on our own at the Winnsboro Bakery & Café at 210 N Main.  
 7:00 PM: Sacred Harp shape note singing at the depot.  
 (This was the hymnody of much of the area here throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s.)

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

All of October is Autumn Trails Celebration with events on every weekend. There will be something special on Sunday in town & nearby in connection with the festival. Some of you may be interested in the week-long Lewis & Clark Historic Trail Foundation Meeting starting this same weekend in Memphis, TN.. It will be following the path of Capt Lewis to his death at Grinders Corner.

See the Google map with links to the meeting sites on the WFA website, [willardfamilyassn.org](http://willardfamilyassn.org)

Links to Winnsboro websites:

<http://www.winnsboro.com/area.htm>

<http://www.historicwoodcotx.org/winnsboro.htm>

<http://www.clementsrealtors.com/winnsboro.htm>

### HOUSING

*In Winnsboro:*

#### **MOTELS:**

Trails Country Motel  
 500 E Coke Rd.  
 Winnsboro, TX 75494  
 903-342-9026

The only motel in Winnsboro, this is no-frills lodging for a modest \$39.95 to \$52.95 + tax.

**BED & BREAKFAST:**

Here are some samples

Aunt Ann's Cottage  
1201 N. Main St.  
Winnsboro, TX 75494  
903-342-5090, 903-767-0040  
<http://www.auntannscottage.com>

Gloryhaven Cottage  
787 CR SW 3230  
Winnsboro, TX 75494  
903-860-2662  
<http://www.kathyrachal.com/gloryhaven.htm>

**MOTELS IN NEARBY TOWNS**

Average:

Best Western Trail Dust Inn, Sulphur Springs  
<http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=44286>  
approx. \$79.99 per 2 Queen beds or  
1 King bed + tax

Average:

Quality Inn, Sulphur Springs  
[http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-sulphur\\_springs-texaTXA10?promo=gglocal](http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-sulphur_springs-texaTXA10?promo=gglocal)  
approx. \$69 per 1 King; \$79 per 2 Queen  
beds + tax

Very Nice:

Comfort Suites, Sulphur Springs  
[http://www.comfortsuites.com/hotel-sulphur\\_springs-texas\\_TX517?promo=gglocal](http://www.comfortsuites.com/hotel-sulphur_springs-texas_TX517?promo=gglocal)  
approx. \$89 per 2 Queen beds or 1 King bed +  
tax. (a discount was discussed of \$69.42  
+ tax; mention "family reunion")

*Best looking breakfast layout; nicest looking  
rooms save for H.I. Express*

Superbly Nice:

Holiday Inn Express, Sulphur Springs  
[http://www.hiexpress.com/h/d/ex/1/en/hotel/dcstx?&cm\\_mmc=mdpr-\\_-googlemaps-\\_-ex-\\_-dcstx&dp=true](http://www.hiexpress.com/h/d/ex/1/en/hotel/dcstx?&cm_mmc=mdpr-_-googlemaps-_-ex-_-dcstx&dp=true)  
\$99 to \$139 depending on room amenities

*More possibilities are listed on the website.*

**RV PARKS**

Winnsboro City Park  
<http://www.rvparkreviews.com/regions/Texas/Winnsboro.html>

Gov Hogg City Park in Quitman, 15 miles  
south on Hwy 37  
<http://www.rvparkreviews.com/regions/Texas/Quitman.html>

*See inside back page for registration form.*

**SEEKING INFORMATION**

We received the following query from Jean Foss:

I am working on the biography of **Belle Wyatt Willard Roosevelt** and wonder if any Willard ever met her. She lived in New York City and died in March 1968. She had four children: Joseph Willard, Kermit, Dirck and Clochette. She had to put up with Kermit's alcoholism, a mistress, family steamship lines, raising four children, a sick mother and paid all expenses for Kermit and children. Not many women today would be that loyal.

Her father, Joseph E. Willard, #1617 and his brother, Henry A. Willard, #611b owned the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

I thought your paper might be interested in my research, which is mostly in the Library of Congress. I am having a most interesting research time.

Jean's e-mail address is [fo2j@embarqmail.com](mailto:fo2j@embarqmail.com).

**GENEALOGY RESEARCH**

Recently our Webmaster, Rodney Willard received an inquiry from David Willard of Oakham, England asking about Willards still living in England.

Rodney replied that the last time we visited Horsmonden there were no Willards living there. As you know, there are still many Willards in the phone books elsewhere in Kent and especially Sussex. But none of them have made contact with us. So we have not traced connections. How far back have you traced your ancestry?

The following is David's interesting reply:

Dear Rodney,

Thank you for your swift reply. This is all very new to me, but the ancestor trail has been sparked off by my father getting bombarded by professional genealogy hunters a few weeks back when a lost cousin died without nearest kin or without leaving a will. My father is 80 years old and to be honest not that worried about where we all came from but it has set off my natural curiosity.

I can say with certainty that my paternal grandfather Herbert Willard (age 33) and grandmother Nellie Earp (age 32) were married on 17th of August 1924 at The parish church, Southall, Middlesex, London. My great grandfather was Godfrey Willard, a Police officer (retired) as stated on the wedding certificate. I have searched the 1901 population census for England and can find only one Godfrey Willard with a son Herbert of the right age in 1901 and this places them at 69 Southgate (Police station) in Chichester, West Sussex, and that Godfrey is a Sergeant of Police born in Sussex, Aldingbourne (age 45). Strangely here the offspring names don't match precisely as my dad remembers his Uncles names but it was the fashion to name children after parents and know the children by the second or middle names - my father is a case in point. Also he did not remember having any Aunts but there

are two children Florence age 13 and Sarah age 11 on the census. I think this is a mystery waiting to unravel as my father has been informed that there are 4 family lines to inherit from his deceased cousin, and by my fathers reckoning only 3. Either the professionals have got it wrong or my dad never knew of his aunts for some reason and my dad has already stated this to them and they assure us they are correct and have the right line. Assuming this is all correct then the trail goes to 1871 godfrey is age 15 listed as a stepson at South Mundham Chichester. 1861 census Godfrey age 6 with parents Edmund /Edward Collin Willard and Mary Willard in Aldingbourne, Sussex. Finally last entry I can get to 1841 census from Aldingbourne, Edmund age 9 with parents William Willard age 50 (bailiff) and Charlotte age 50.

My paternal grandmothers line possibly also links (all be it very tenuously) across the pond to one of the most famous law men of your country Wyatt Earp. My Earp line goes back to a place called Melbourne in Derbyshire where many Earps still live have a look at this site out of curiosity if you are interested:

[http://www.ronnieearp.co.uk/html/melbourne\\_earp\\_s.html](http://www.ronnieearp.co.uk/html/melbourne_earp_s.html)

I hope I will find out if I have got this right from the experts and if so I will send on more details. I also hope this was what you were looking for from me and I have not gone on too long.

All the very best,  
David Willard.

## WILLARD MEMOIR

From Willard Memoir; or, Life and Times of Major Simon Willard, this is a letter he addressed to his children. (pgs 447-452)

“My children, - for so I call you, though belonging to different generations,—listen to my words of instruction, warning and advice. It is my privilege and my duty to hold converse with you, as I have constituted by our heavenly Father the founder of a numerous race on these Western shores. Born before the settlement of Jamestown and Plymouth, and of an age to remember the voyage of the ‘Mayflower’ – the news whereof was brought even to my retired native village of Horsmonden –I was permitted to live through an important epoch, when great principles were in discussion, the settlement of which would affect future generations in the establishment of justice and right, or the perpetuation of wrong under the forms of law.

“The death of my mother, of blessed memory, when I was too young to know the extent of my loss, and that of a father in my early youth, not, indeed, before the remembered words of counsel and affection, but when I needed his protection and guidance, left me exposed to the temptations which invade the humble village as well as the larger resorts of men. But, though assailed, through God’s mercy I was saved from falling; and trusting in Him whom I had been in youth taught to reverence, I was brought safely through.

“My early training was in the church of England; and in ancient parish church I received, in my infancy, the water of baptism by the hands of the rector, Rev. Edward Alchine, from whose instructions and catechetical teaching, when I came of an age to understand them, I trust that I received spiritual benefit. But my religious preferences were in another direction, and I yielded to their persuasions. I well remember, even with the dawn of reason and reflection, the great controversy which has then beginning to rage with unwonted heat, even to the dividing of families.

“I had none to aid me in shaping my future course; and though I was prospered in business and very happy the wife of my choice, and might have borne my part in my native village, the feeling increased, that this was not my proper sphere. Neighbors and friends, the men of Kent in various quarters, were preparing to remove to the New World, where success had attended the Plymouth settlers, and the larger and more imposing colony composed of those who lined the shores of this beautiful bay. I was in sympathy

with these Christians, while still loving the church from which I had separated, and the ‘tender milk’ drawn from her breasts.

“I saw the day aching when sharp trials would begin, and I should be excluded from the few religious privileges which remained for those who already were stigmatized as schismatics. I determined to join those who were seeking a home in the wilderness, where we might worship God in a way which we thought was of his appointment. But how was this to be accomplished with a young family? Measures of detention, which had now well-nigh reached their culminating point, were daily becoming more stringent, requiring certificates of uniformity, and oaths of allegiance and supremacy, of all who purposed embarking for the New World. Vessels were carefully watched; and none could leave the realm, and take passage for New England, without special permission, and after having submitted to the various orders exacted by authority, I closed up my business at Horsmondon, made my preparations diligently and silently in connection with a married sister and her husband, and bidding an affectionate adieu to those of the family left behind, reached the coast in safety, where we found a boat in readiness to take us to the vessel which was to bear us to our coveted retreat.

“I cannot describe to you my sensations on forsaking my native land. Scarce ever beyond the bounds of my little village, I was leaving home, with all its fond ancestral associations, never to return. My emotions, on taking the last view of dear Old England, were such as almost to overpower me. All of love, all of memory, returned; and I felt for the moment a doubt, whether I was in the way of duty in my removal. But it was only for a moment. When the last speck of the Kentish shore disappeared below the horizon, I girded myself to the undertaking; cast no more lingering looks behind, but looked forward over the wide waste of waters towards my destined abode; addressed myself to all that belonged to its duties and obligations; and never at any one moment afterwards, until the day that God called me hence from earthly scenes, did I regret the resolution I had taken. We were favored in our passage, and our little fleet reached these shores in the beautiful noontide of May, when all nature was bursting into life, as if to give us a glad and smiling welcome to the new home of our pilgrimage.



“I look around me; but all is changed that is under the power or control of man. In the populous towns and cities which have sprung up, I cannot recognize the little hamlets, once my familiar acquaintance. Even my ancient dwelling places—peaceful and humble abodes in Cambridge, Concord, Lancaster and Groton—can no longer be traced or divined, except by those marks which God himself has established in the flowing waters of the Charles, the Assabet and the Nashaway. Strange sights and sounds salute my senses; mysterious agencies of motion on land and water are all around me; and I almost feel as if man was in communion with forbidden spirits.

“Descendants,—Here I planted my stakes; here I made my home, nor wished to return to the scenes of my youth. My venture was here in new and untried existence, and I loved it. God favored me with health, friends and beloved children; while, by his will and the love of brethren, I trust I was helpful to the Commonwealth, at least in some humble measure,—un military, legislative and judicial service,—through a long period, until my death. For all that I was enabled to do I was truly grateful, while conscious of my shortcoming, and lamenting that my success did not equal my intentions.

“It was my earnest wish to train up my children to walk in the paths of virtue and usefulness, and to educate them in human learning according to their capacities, that they might serve their generation with fidelity. Herein I was aided and blessed in the schools, open to all, which our honored magistrates and deputies caused to be established, that ‘learning might not be buried in the grave of our fathers, in the church and commonwealth;’ and by the teachings and instructions of worthy Mr. Bulkeley and Mr. Rowlandson. By their regular attendance on public worship, by the sure way of preparation for good service in life and of becoming examples to their own children.

“And now, if, in the day of small things, when we were few in number and weak in power, surrounded by the savage, with none under God to help us save our own right arm, I was of any service to church or commonwealth, I desire first of all to thank God, and to give him the praise. I will not offer myself as an example for imitation, or commend myself for having done aught, but only say that I have endeavored.

“Consider what God has done for you. The wilderness and the solitary place have been made glad for you; and the desert rejoices, and blossoms as the rose, as in the

days of Isaiah for the chosen people, indeed, the little one has become a thousand; and the small beginnings which I have witnessed have widened out to a powerful Commonwealth, filled with the comforts, privileges, and blessing, countless in number, and leaving little to be imagined or desired. Think not that your own right hand has wrought out this your happy condition; but give thanks to Him to whom they belong, and believe that never was a people more highly favored.

“You would honor my memory, and are very free in expressing veneration; but if you would honor me aright, if you feel the veneration you express, show it by your deeds; by reverence of that which is higher and holier; by doing all your duty actively and earnestly in your generation; by adhering to the old paths of justice, faithfulness and holy trust; by sincerity in belief, abandoning all Antinomian heresies as you would the other extreme of dead formalism; by being bold for the right, modestly and firmly maintaining your opinions, whether called to public station or in the more private walks; following no man and no cause because of unpopularity or reproach; but avoiding the parasite and self-seeker, and standing bravely by your own convictions. Thus did my son, even Samuel, in the time of his pilgrimage, when he set himself to great trial in the coldness of friends, and the harsh judgment of an entire community; but, unmoved in his purpose, sustained by his conscientious view of the right, calmly awaited that revolution in sentiment which at once was the earnest reward of his long and patient suffering.

“Farewell!”

### SIMON WILLARD BURIAL SITE

A query was received asking the whereabouts of Simon Willard’s burial site. Rodney Willard answered the request with the following:

Our now deceased former historian Bill Willard researched extensively the various claims for the burial site of Simon. But I have forgotten his final conclusions. So I will share this with several others who have better memories than I. Anyone know where the site is or seen it?

**BOARD MEMBERS****PRESIDENT**

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**WILLARD ITEMS FOR SALE**

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

Book "Grains of Rice... with an occasional dash of salt". \$20.00 plus  
 \$5.00 postage. Contact – Joella Groser Schultz, 1200 E. Silvertree Dr., Tuscon, AZ 85718

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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](mailto:mwtravis@verizon.net)**

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