



WILLARD NEWS

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

WillardFamilyAssn.org



102ND WILLARD FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION Old Wethersfield, Connecticut October 22, 23 & 24, 2010

The 2010 WFA reunion is to take place in Old Wethersfield, Connecticut. This is a beautiful town with much history.

The following is an excerpt from the announcement of the 1998 reunion in Old Wethersfield:

“Wethersfield was settled in 1634 by ten “adventurers” from Watertown, MA. The town, with a fine harbor in the 1600s, became the commercial and shipbuilding center for the river valley and a busy port for trade with the West Indies. Close to the Keeney Center is the Webb, Deane, Stevens Museum – three 18th century restored houses. George Washington met Comte de Rochambeau here to discuss plans for Yorktown. (This is one house where Washington really did sleep!). The historic Meetinghouse of the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield is a very special landmark.

Near Hartford, Wethersfield is known for its red onions, corn and grains, all of which the local tribes taught the settlers to grow along the fertile banks of the Connecticut River. This in turn led to the famous seed companies. Willards have been in management at Comstock, Ferre & Co., (the oldest continuously operated seed company in America) for decades”.

The following is a note from Richard Willard, Jr., Director, to the local paper relative to the Comstock, Ferre & Co.:

“The whole of the Willard Family has no official comment yet, but I do!

I cannot assume to speak for everyone in our family, but yesterday I met Mr. Jere Gettie and his wife Emily to welcome them to Wethersfield and to offer any help they may need from me in restoring the grand old company to the way it looked and operated in an original and less complicated time.

We walked through the buildings as I learned more about the history of his seed business and his visions for the future of Comstock, Ferre & Co. There is so much family history associated with the 100 years of Willard family management and ownership that he left me with the impression that he respects our role and much more the whole history of the company and will commit to supporting the future as we had done in the past.

Like the miraculous recovery of a terminally ill being, the Gettle family has brought to me and others in my family the hope that what we had done will continue on.

Corinne Willard would be thrilled to learn of this development for she was worried about what the company might become. Mr. Gettle and I discussed the possibility of working together to provide the space to store and then officially complete her “History of the Seed Business in America” (or some other title that she can no longer help with) culled from the totality of her work; from her years of personal written and recorded interviews, unique and historic pictures that she accumulated for her research.

Mr. Gettle spoke also of a seed museum would be welcome and we can offer to help with that.

Can you imagine the new owners respecting the old barns so much that they would bring in a crew of Amish Barn experts to help rehab and clean up the beautiful structures so immediate their taking ownership?

I imagine, too that the Beldens, Comstocks, Ferres, Willards and Benerups can sleep well today knowing that their ‘baby’ is safe again.”

A registration form with additional information can be found as an insert.

Hope to see you there.

JOSIAH WILLARD OF WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Josiah Willard, first son of Major Simon Willard and Mary Sharp, was born in Concord, Massachusetts about 1635 and was brought up in a farmhouse in Concord. The town built South Bridge as access to Simon Willard's farm high on a hill over the Concord River. That house finally burned in 1857.

Josiah married Hannah Hosmer, March 20, 1656-7. There is mention of this marriage in Concord town records, but Thomas Hosmer, her father, never lived in Concord and the notice may have been meant to honor Major Simon and Hannah's uncle, Joseph Hosmer.

The Hosmers migrated from Hawkhurst, Kent, England to Cambridge, Massachusetts. Hawkhurst was a town near Horsmonden, Major Siman Willard's town of origin. Thomas Hosmer was in Cambridge in 1632. Major Simon came to America in May 1634 and also settled in Cambridge. He owned a dwelling house and garden on Water Street. Thomas Hosmer removed (with Hooker, according to Savage) in June 1636 to Hartford where he had a good estate and was constable, selectman and representative several times. He was the son of Stephen and Dorothy Hosmer. Thomas was married to Francis who died February 15, 1675 at age 75. He remarried to Katherine Wilson. Thomas had four children. Hannah Hosmer's siblings were Stephen, Clemence and Hester.

When Josiah and Hannah were married in March of 1657, she was about 18 years old and Josiah was 22. The young couple bought property on the west side of Broad Street in Wethersfield. We have printed the original deed, dated 1661, with this article.

Josiah was one of the earliest schoolmasters in Wethersfield. He removed to Newington Parish where he may have died in 1674. There is no known record of his burial place.

The facts about Josiah are well known, but there is much curiosity about what happened to Hannah. Hannah Hosmer Willard married William Maltby of Branford. He came to Branford in 1670; however, records prove that he was first in Guilford. He was the owner of three vessels. A child, Daniel, was born to William Maltby in 1679. That same year he went to Wethersfield over a blazed trail from Hartford to New Haven.

He bought a horse from Samuel Martin from whom Josiah and Hannah bought the Broad Street property in 1661. In 1685, Hannah was mentioned in her father's will as Hannah Maltby so they have married ca. 1680. Perhaps the first Mrs. Maltby died when Daniel was born or soon afterwards. Hannah brought the three youngest Willard children to Branford. William Maltby's children were listed as John, Jane, Mary, William and Elizabeth. In another record, Daniel is listed as born in 1679. In all, there was a household of nine children in their home in Branford. To determine Hannah's death date we have a record of William and Hannah witnessing a deed to John Yale in 1689. Maltby married again in 1693 (according to Edward Brainard of Guilford) so she must have died ca. 1691 or 92. He remarried Abigail Bishop by whom he had two more children. William Maltby died in 1710 and she died the same year.

I took notes at Godfrey Library in Middletown from a small Maltby book that mentions the following bequest in William Maltby's will: "To Jane Parker a bedstead and bed hangings of Hannah and furniture in my hall were all Hannah's." It seems strange to me that I could not find any of the Willard children mentioned in that will.

It is believed that the above is from the desk of, former WFA Historian, Ruth Willard. The deed mentioned above will be included in a future newsletter, stay tuned.

2010 SCHOLARSHIPS

Four - five hundred dollar scholarships are being awarded this year. The recipients are: Vanessa Willard of Red Bluff, CA who will be attending UC Davis; William N. Higbee 3rd of Egg Harbor Twp., NJ who will be attending Brigham Young University; Sarah H. Triplett of Sandwich, MA who will be attending WPI and John Hendy, Jr. of East Sandwich, MA who will be attending University of Connecticut.

WHAT ARE FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS DOING

Sarah Martin went to St. Josephs College, Windham, Maine and graduated in 2009. She works at Maine Medical Center in Portland, ME as a nurse – neurological head trauma.

Christopher Martin went to Westfield State College and graduated in 2005. He received a master's degree from Umass, Amherst. He is working at Towson University in Maryland as an athletic trainer.

Amy Sanders graduated from St. Josephs College, Maine. She is working as a nurse in Kidney dialysis in the Portland, ME area.

Joshua Sanders graduated from WPI in Worcester. MA. He is working in Arizona as an environmental engineer for a mining company.

If you have received a scholarship or know someone who has, let us know and we will recognize them.

WILLARD ITEMS FOR SALE



Coverlets: \$50.00 plus postage of \$10.35

Tote Bags are \$30.00 plus postage of \$3.50

Pillows: \$25.00 plus postage of \$3.50 (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

DONATIONS

The Association recently received a large family bible donated by Patricia Ellsworth Wilson, which was sent by her cousin Bruce Felton.

If you have something you would like to donate to WFA please contact Julia (Judy) Hendy, President.

WILLARD

The following is from the *Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire*, published in 1908, pages 1027 and 1028:

Investigation tends to establish the origin of the name Willard in the old German Duchy of Aliace or in Lorraine, its neighbor. In the time of William the Conqueror, the Family was fully established in England, and from the time of compilation of Domesday Book until now, Willards have been residents in the Counties of Sussex and Kent. The immediate ancestors of Simon Willard, the immigrant progenitor of the Willards in this article, resided in the southwesterly part of Kent in the hyndred (a division of a county) of Benchley and Horsmonden.

(1) Richard Willard was a man of substance in the village of Horsmonden and was living there at the time of his death, February 1616. He was married three times, his last wife surviving him only a few days, and being buried on the 25th of the same month. Seven children survived him; they were: Margery, Simon, George, Mary, Richard, Elizabeth and Catherine.

(11) Major Simon Willard, son of Richard Willard, was born at Horsmonden, probably in the early part of the year 1605, was baptized in the church at that place April 7, 1605. His Mother died before he reached the age of four years, and when he was twelve years old his Father and Stepmother died. He seems to have been well educated and was probably engaged in active business during the years of his majority at Horsmonden. He embarked from England in April 1634, in company with his sister Margery and her husband, Captain Dalor Davis, and arrived at Boston about the middle of the month of May, after a short and very prosperous voyage.

Six ships arrived at Boston about this time and there is no record to show which of these Simon Willard crossed the Atlantic. Simon, after his arrival, established himself at Cambridge. He is entitled "Merchant" by Governor Winthrop in 1635. He dealt, also, extensively with the Indians of the interior and engaged in the purchase and exportation of furs. August 14, 1634, a tract of land was granted him, consisting of one hundred acres, upon which he had a dwelling house. This was bounded on the east by the Charles River. In the village of Cambridge he had a house lot, which he sold, probably about 1639. By trading with the Indians he had become acquainted with the situations of Musquetaquid, as a place of pleasant aspect and easy cultivation and to this he directed his attention.

A grant was made by the general court, September 2, 1635, of a "plantation at Misquetaquid – six myles of land square to belong to it". Winthrop says that this grant was made "to Mr. Buckley (Bulkeley) and (Simon Willard), merchant, and about 12 more families, "and was named Concord. Here he was one of the leading men of the town, being town clerk until 1654, and representative fourteen years. He was chosen assistant twenty-two years from 1654 to his death and was very much employed in the public business of the country. As a surveyor he was celebrated. About 1652, he was sent as a commissioner to establish the

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

Membership dues for Calendar Year 2010

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership
(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.



northern boundry of Massachussetts at the head of the Merrimack River and it is said that the letters S.W., which some years since were found upon the Bound Rock near Lake Winnepesaukee, are probably the initials of his name.

For prominent service to the settlement of Lancaster, he was presented with a large tract of land, and it is supposed that he moved to that town in 1659. Subsequent to his removal, he acquired a strip of territory in Groton, now situated in the Town of Ayer. This land has been known as the Nonas Coicus grant, it being adjacent to a brook of that name. Upon this tract he erected a house, probably in 1676. The family was absent at the time, warning having been given of the approach of the Indians. The more prominent military service of Simon Willard as related to the public began when, in 1653, he was appointed Sargent-major of the forces of Middlesex County. In October, 1654 he was made commander-in-chief of a levy of a little more than three hundred footmen and horsemen who were sent out by the united colonies in an expedition against Ninigret, the Sachem of the Miantics, returning to Boston with his troops by October 24. The result of the expedition was the obtaining of a satisfactory agreement with the Ninigret and also with the Pequod Indians.

In the early part of King Philips war he organized the Colonial troops and one of his first acts in the field was the relief of the Brookfield garrison, Soon after he was in command of a considerable force went to range the country about Brookfield. Un this service he was employed from September 20, 1675 to April 18, 1676. An old record states "The Major was employed about the country business, Settling of Garrusons in towns and settling of Indians at Concord, Chelsford and other business".

For several months Major Willard was occupied in the various towns assisting in their defense, and soon after the return of the Narragansett expedition at the arrival of Canonchet in the Nipmuck country, the council ordered him to raise a large force of mounted men to do duty in the vicinity of Groton, Lancaster and Marlboro. He returned from the war and went to Charlestown, where he died April 24 1676. He was not an ultra religionist, and was a very useful man in the colony.

He married (first) in England, Mary Sharpe, born at Horsmonden in 1614, daughter of Henry and Jane (Feydle) Sharpe. Married (second) Elizabeth Dunster, sister of Rev. Henry Dunster, of Harvard College. She died about a year after the marriage. Married (third) Mary Dunster, a cousin of Elizabeth. She survived the Major and married Deacon Noyes of Sudbury. To Major Willard were born seventeen children, of whom nine sons and five daughters arrived at mature age. The children of the first wife were: Mary, Elizabeth (died young), Elizabeth, Dorothy, Josiah, Samuel and Sarah. By the third: Abovehope. Simon, Mary, Henry, John, Daniel, Joseph, Benjamin, Hannah and Jonathon. Benjamin is our direct line.

NEW DIRECTORS NAMED

Pamela Willard Lankford of Eliot, Maine and Suzanne Martin of Athol. Massachusetts have been named new directors of WFA. They are a welcome, younger, addition to the board.

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