

Willard News

Volume 35, #2 December, 2002

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS, 2002

Our 94th Reunion & Annual Meeting

By William L. Willard, President

The 2002 reunion has come and gone and what a great time we had. Our headquarters were at the Best Western Motel in Concord. Formalities began Friday evening with registration and social hour in a private dining room at the historic Colonial Inn in Concord. After a New England dinner of turkey or fresh scrod, our speaker of the evening was Marian H. Wheeler, Concord resident and past WFA Board member.

Marian's topic was "Simon Willard's Life in Concord," and she explained the early settlement of Concord in 1635 by Simon Willard and Rev. Peter Bulkeley. Marian's information about the local environment, animals, Indians, and the way of life of these early settlers was fascinating and something we don't usually learn about. One of Marian's references was her own copy of a first edition of a book, entitled New England's Prospect, published in London in 1634 by William Wood. He had come to America in 1629 and documented the terrain and the natives as the Pilgrims found them in 1620.

Special Note: Marian Wheeler's talk can be found on the WFA web page. William Wood's book was published in 1898 in a second edition and as a paperback by the University of Massachusetts in 1974. The Willard Library was able to obtain a copy of the hardbound 1898 edition from an internet book dealer.

On Saturday morning we met in the Parish Hall of the First Parish Unitarian (Simon Willard's church) for coffee and pastries. The annual meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock and the business of the WFA was conducted. *(If you would like a copy of the minutes of the annual meeting, send a self addressed stamped envelope to me at PO Box 340, South Windham, CT 06266-0340.)*

We gathered in the lovely church garden while the caterer set up our buffet luncheon. After an excellent luncheon 47 members and guests boarded a bus for a guided tour of Concord and many of the historic sites – from the Indians and early days of Simon Willard to the Revolutionary War battle areas and then to the homes of famous 19th century writers such as Thoreau, Alcott, Emerson and Hawthorne. Of special interest was the location of Simon Willard's home on a hill overlooking the Concord River.

Saturday evening for those who wished to attend, we met at a local restaurant for dinner and conversation. That was the final event in a very successful reunion weekend. The weather was warm, but not unbearable, and I felt that the reunion went well and everyone enjoyed it.

I especially want to thank Marian Wheeler and her Concord committee, as well as Marjorie Travis and Barbara Willard for their efforts which made our 2002 Reunion a memorable one.

Librarian's Report, By William L. Willard, Jr.

Since our last newsletter much new information has been gathered about other lines of families with the surname Willard. We have had many requests for genealogical assistance and by putting pieces together we have learned about several new lines that have immigrated to America. Our new website <http://WillardFamilyAssn.org> is mainly responsible for all of the new contacts. Among these new Willards is a John Willard, a British soldier who left the military at the end of the Revolutionary war and settled in Pennsylvania. His line carries through to the present. A Nathaniel VanHorn Willard has been found in Ohio and we are currently working with one of his descendants. Two separate Willard families who came to America from France in the early 1800's are being researched. A Jonathan Willard, born in England in 1795 immigrated to Canada and family members settled in New York. We were already aware of the DeWalt Willard line from Germany, so we are presently gathering information on six additional families bearing the surname Willard. I am sure there are others.

Karen Willard, our Computer Archivist, is doing a first class job developing a genealogical list of the Willard family using the Master Genealogist format. By sharing newly gathered information on families bearing the name Willard, we are able to establish a database that is very helpful in answering the many queries we receive. Our Webmaster, Rodney Willard is our front line in the world of cyberspace and passes queries on to Karen or to me. WFA is also a member of Ancestry.com, the largest only genealogy organization. The Willard query section is monitored daily and we post a message alerting people to available help. The WFA is now fully computerized and that makes it much easier to assist people all over the world.

A recent acquisition for our Willard Library is a rare copy of [A History of the Indian Wars from 1620 to 1800](#), published in limited numbers in the early 1800's. Major Simon Willard is a principal player in three chapters and the book gives a detailed account of King Phillip's War.

As you know, the Willard Family Archives were moved a year ago to my home in South Windham. For many years they were in the home of Historian Ruth Willard who, after 25 years, has now decided to stop taking queries and devote her time to specific Willard projects. She has just finished a super genealogy on the Willard-Davis line, concentrating on Dolar Davis and Margery Willard Davis and their descendants. As Librarian currently, I have taken over most of the Historian's work, but Ruth is still an active member of the Board of Directors and is working on special WFA projects. "Well done and many thanks, Ruth, from all of us."

Dues Notice: Effective July 1, 2003 the Life Member dues will be \$250. This change was voted at the annual meeting in accordance with Article IV of the By-Laws of the WFA.

Current Dues: Annual dues from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 are \$10. You may be a Patron for \$20 or become a Life Member for a one-time payment of \$100 (until July 1, 2003). To join, please send dues to Treasurer Jeremy Smith at the address listed with Board Members on page 3.

Willard News is published twice a year by the Willard Family Association of America, Inc. and edited by Marjorie W. Travis, 185 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02420-2126. We invite your comments. Address changes (please include old address) go to Marjorie as well.

Willard Family Association Website: <http://willardfamilyassn.org>

WFA 2003 Reunion and Annual Meeting

The next annual WFA meeting will be August 8 and 9, 2003 in the Philadelphia area celebrating the German Willards. It will just precede the Lewis & Clark Historic Trail Foundation Bicentennial Celebration Meetings in Philadelphia August 10 – 13. Thus you can take in both meetings on one trip! Details and registration forms for the Lewis & Clark events may be viewed at www.lewisandclarkphila.org.

Details of the WFA meeting are pending. When finalized they will be on the Willard website and published in the May newsletter. If you have any suggestions for visits to sites in the area that have historic connections to the German Willards or of experts on the German Willards we might invite to address us, please contact President William Willard or one of the other WFA board members.

Western WFA Reunion, Fall 2003

Plans are being made to meet in the San Francisco Bay area. Watch the WFA website and check the May newsletter for more information.

Willard Coverlet – Last Chance!!!

Director Lois Cooley has only a very few coverlets left. Please contact Lois directly if you would like to order one. President Willard gave Lois a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of her outstanding work on this project.

Board Members of the Willard Family Association, Inc.

| | |
|---|--|
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| | |
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A Special Sunday in Horsmonden

By Karen Willard

The first weekend of April this year, my husband Ken Hallock and I took off for a trip to England, celebrating our silver wedding anniversary. Ken very willingly allowed me to schedule a visit to the Willard ancestral parish church, St. Margaret's, which is just outside the village of Horsmonden, in Kent, to attend services on the first Sunday after Easter. In advance, I contacted the Reverend Michael Insley <MichaelInsley@compuserve.com> to discover the worship times and he extended a very warm welcome for us to participate fully, as they practice an "open table."

We discovered that Horsmonden supports two B&Bs, one in the village itself, and the other situated right across the fields from the church — the one for us! An aside: I have always pronounced the name of the village with the accent on the first syllable, as HORSE-monden, and the other syllables getting equal but lesser emphasis. When I telephoned Mrs. Diane Craft (pronounced "croft"), the fascinating and interesting proprietor of the Blackberry Barn B&B (Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden, Kent, TN128EL, England; 01580-211084), to make our reservations, she laughingly informed me that the village name is pronounced "Horse-mon-DEN" and the first two syllables must be got out of the way quickly to enable one to linger lovingly on the last.

On the Saturday our train brought us from London (where we had been sampling the delights of Greenwich) to Royal Tunbridge Wells (as distinct from Tonbridge Wells, note the spelling, and confusingly the train schedules all simply say "Tunbridge Wells" for the former and "Tonbridge" for the latter) and we were met by Mrs. Craft, who wouldn't hear of our taking a taxi the 10 miles out to her B&B.

Two services are available each Sunday: a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion (no music), and a Common Worship Holy Communion service (amplified song-leading plus tracker pipe organ). They are two very different experiences, as we were tartly informed by our hostess and we immediately determined to attend both. So after only coffee and suitably cold toast we walked across the fields, past the sheep and the old Ost Houses (for curing hops, for which this region is famed), and arrived in good time to celebrate a very solemn and moving service, which probably differed only a little from when "Simon Willarde sonne of Richarde Willard" was baptized there April 7, 1605 (397 years ago to the day). The worshippers were primarily middle aged or older, and no children were present.

Afterwards one of the people who came up to welcome us was Ken Bromley, the head of the Change Ringers for St. Margaret's. He asked if we'd like to see the bells and to watch while they rang? Tamping down my enthusiasm, I said yes, and we followed him up very worn, slippery, and narrow stone steps to the bell chamber. We ogled the Willard Bell and the others and then descended to the room where the ringers were waiting and sat quietly while they pulled their ropes in the mathematical patterns that make up "change ringing".

We dashed back to our B&B for breakfast ("full English breakfast") with the bells singing out overhead, and were able to get back in time to attend the last half of the 2nd service. This one was well populated with young families with children as well as a sprinkling of those our age. It had much the feel of a Southern Baptist service, very different indeed from the earlier one!

Continued on next page

Before leaving the church we read the parish newsletter and noted plans for a float featuring Simon Willard as their entry in the village parade celebrating the Queen's Jubilee

Following the 2nd service, Rev. Insley invited us to join him and his wife at their home for drinks and we spent a warmly cordial hour with them before leaving for our planned bike tour of the surrounding villages. Many of the surrounding villages' names end in "-hurst", indicating that this used to be a densely wooded

and hilly region, and that many of the trees were coppiced. But the fuel needs of the iron works/gun foundries of Simon's era (and slightly later) gobbled up most of the trees so that today one mostly sees fields of rape plants, hops, and sheep (still hilly; most of the villages are atop the hills with the fields in between).

We could tax your ears (and eyes) for hours relating our two weeks from home, but this one day in Horsmonden was definitely the high point and one we recommend to all Willards.

Volunteers needed

The Willard Family Association is looking for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors and Committees. This is a chance to really get involved with YOUR family's organization. The Board of Directors is responsible for granting scholarships for qualified family members, overseeing the finances of the organization, planning future reunions, fund raising, and assuring that the organization is following the WFA Constitution and By-Laws.

This is strictly a volunteer organization, and new input and involvement is always needed. Next year, 2003, is an election year and recommendations for Board positions are most welcome. If you are interested or if you know of someone who might be please contact me. Bill Willard, President

Price List for Available Willard Articles

(Prices subject to change)

Genealogy on a CD Willard Memoir and the 1915 Genealogy

Through an arrangement with Digital Editions, the Willard Family Association can now supply either one or both of these volumes on a CD. Digital Editions has done an excellent job of reproducing these books in an easy to use format and indexing system.

Please check the WFA website

<http://WillardFamilyAssn.org> and then order from: Willard Family Association, Books on CDs, PO Box 340, South Windham, CT 06266-0340

The following Willard items can be ordered from Alan C. Spooner, 2 Collier Road, Scituate, MA 02066-4607. Make checks out to *The Willard Family Association of America, Inc.*

| | <u>Price</u> | <u>Shipping</u> |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| The Henry² Book (This is the book that is only of Henry ² descendants) | \$50.00 | \$5.00 |
| Willard crested stationery 25 crested sheets, 25 plain sheets & 25 envelopes | \$ 3.50 | \$2.00 |
| Willard silk-screened Coat of Arms 11" x 14" suitable for framing | \$12.00 | \$2.75 |

Ahead of Their Time: Women of the Willard Family

By Cynthia Dias-Reid

The Willard House and Clock Museum, located in Grafton, Massachusetts, displays an extensive collection of Willard clocks, family furnishings, portraits and a wonderful quilt made by members of the Willard Family Association. Visitors often come to the museum with an interest in American clock-making history and the contributions of the famous Willard clockmakers. However, as guests take a guided tour of the historic home and galleries they also learn of the many important accomplishments of various female members of the Willard family. As the museum's education and interpretation coordinator, I have a special interest in the history of the Willard family. While on a recent visit to England, this enthusiasm inspired me to visit St. Margaret's Church in Horsmonden, Kent, where Major Simon Willard was baptized in 1605.

Recently, I gave a lecture to a group of female teachers, focusing my presentation on the women of the Willard family. I touched upon the lives of some of the accomplished Willard women such as the innovative educator Emma Hart Willard, founder of the Troy Female Seminary in Troy, New York, who is known as one of the most influential teachers of the early 19th century. She also published textbooks and traveled extensively promoting the education of females.

Another significant member of the Willard family is social reformer Frances Willard, the first woman to have a statue in the National Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C. As a temperance leader she traveled to every state and territory of the United States to promote her cause. She served as president of both the Women's Christian Temperance Union and National Council of Women. Frances was also selected president of Evanston College for Ladies in Illinois making her the first woman president of an American College.

In addition to speaking on the more well known members of the Willard family, I also discussed some of the Willard women who have examples of their talents on display in the museum. Visitors marvel at the intricate needlework of Eliza Willard, wife of clockmaker Simon Willard, Jr. Examples of her handwork include several intricate silk on silk embroideries and a detailed sampler in memory of President Washington done when Eliza was nine years old. The accomplishments of Catherine Willard, daughter of clockmaker Aaron Willard, include meticulous needlework, her personal handwritten mathematics books and documents showing examples of her fine penmanship. Both of these talented women completed studies at Mrs. Rowson's Academy, a popular 19th century school for young ladies in the Boston area.

I would particularly like to honor Martha Willard who lived in the one room house that is currently the keeping room of the museum, built in 1718. She was the wife of Major Joseph Willard and mother of the first white child born in Grafton. Martha lived to be 100 years of age leaving 12 children, 90 grandchildren, 226 great-grandchildren and 53 of the 5th generation. I believe Martha to have been a woman of great strength with a strong constitution. She was an inspiration to all of her family and the residents of Grafton.

The great-grand daughters of Martha Willard were able to widen their horizons as a result of the educational reform of the early 19th century brought about by leaders such as Emma Willard. I would like to close with a quotation from Almira Hart Phelps, Emma Willard's sister, who encouraged students at her sister's female seminary to: "prove by your example, that knowledge is not to be a curse to your sex, that it is to lead them in the path of duty, not out of it; that it is to make them better daughters, wives and mothers; better qualified for usefulness in every path within the sphere of female exertions."

Editor's Note: The Willard House and Clock Museum is well worth a visit when you come to Massachusetts. It is located at 11 Willard Street, North Grafton, MA 01536-2011, telephone (508) 839-3500, and can be found at www.willardhouse.org.

WILLARD FAMILY NECROLOGY

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Arlan D. Willard | Life #472 | Athol, Massachusetts |
| Ann W. Korfhage | Life #125 | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |
| Willard Preston McNair | Life #86 | Louisville, Kentucky |
| Henry Augustus Willard II | Life #66 | Gulf Stream, Florida |
| Mrs. Archibald McCleary | Life #99 | Orleans, Massachusetts |
| Clementina Everil Willard Gould | | Sedona, Arizona |
| Katherine W. Woodworth | Life #271 | Wethersfield, Connecticut |
| Mary Price Willard | | Mesa, California |
| Richard G. Willard | Life #241 | Wethersfield, Connecticut |
| Walter G. Woodworth | | Wethersfield, Connecticut |
| Robert Lee Willard | Life #459 | Warner Robins, Georgia |

From the Treasurer

The Working Fund for day-to-day expenses is in good shape, thanks to Lois Cooley and her sales of the Willard coverlets. The balance grew from \$2,932 in 2001 to \$8,310 in 2002. This means that we do not need to tap into the Life Membership Fund for some time and it will be able to grow. That fund grew from \$37,776 to \$42,940 with 38 new life members added and \$1,365 earned in interest. Our fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30.

Other Funds:

| | Education Fund | Genealogy Fund | Housing Fund |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Balance 2001 | \$41,525 | \$17,226 | \$ 9,883 |
| Balance 2002 | \$41,567 | \$10,891 | \$10,532 |

Have you considered giving a life membership to your children or grandchildren? What an easy, thoughtful, long-lasting gift! Each life membership is \$100 until June 30, 2003. You may send your check and request to me at 5 Cabot Drive, Shrewsbury, MA 01545-2286.

Jeremy W. Smith, Treasurer

Members who supported the Willard Family Association in special ways in 2002.

We are grateful to Life Member Catherine Willard for a special gift to the Education Fund.

New Life Members

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary Beth Serozynsky | Sally Willard | Margaret T. Cunningham |
| Sarah T. Stephenson | James Kimble | Tracy Cooper Wardell |
| Mary Kathleen Cooper | Charles Willard | Paul Willard Simpson |
| Alene J. W. Hall | Lloyd H. Chellman | Theodore Lowell Willard |
| Margaret Templer-Carter | Yvonne Willard Miyar | Holly Burt |
| Laura W. Woods | Edwin F. Willard | Bruce K. L. Willard |
| Lenita Gonzales | Mary Charles Mallery | Tamasin Willard Rathbone Grace |
| Scott Russell Goodwin | Bonnie Willard | Foster C. Jones |
| Maura I. Jones | Frederick P. Hosley | Catherine A. Willard |
| William Paul Willard | Robert G. Hockridge | Ann Willard Speckman |
| Susan Vaughn Scott | Robert Stephen Willard | |

Patrons

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Benjamin Duce | Carol J. Benner | Harvey B. Willard |
| Mary D. Walmsley | Anne Hutchinson | Barbara K. Elliott |
| Jean W. Burnham | Helen Belland | Henry C. Trombley |

Arlan D. Willard Memorial Scholarship Fund

As many of you know, Arlan Willard, our past President died very unexpectedly in February of this year. To honor Arlan and the great work he has done over the years on behalf of the Willard Family Association of America, Inc. the Board of Directors at its October meeting re-named the Willard Family scholarship program to the “Arlan D. Willard Memorial Scholarship Fund.” Arlan certainly deserves this honor and his name will now become a permanent part of our organization.

2002 Scholarship Recipients On behalf of Ruth Serozynsky, Chair of the Education Committee, Treasurer Jeremy Smith announced at the Concord Annual Meeting that the WFA has awarded scholarships to four high school graduates of the class of 2002. Eric Willard of Enfield, Connecticut, was awarded the 2002 Arlan D. Willard scholarship and is attending Northeastern University. Allison Smith from Springfield, Vermont, is enrolled at Keene State College. Patrick Clark of Barre, Massachusetts, is in Arizona studying at the University of Advanced Computer Technology. Emily Cooley of Barre, Massachusetts, is attending Framingham State College.

2003 Scholarships The WFA is currently accepting applications for four \$500 scholarships to be awarded after successful completion of the first term of the individual’s freshman year. The following guidelines will apply to those submitting applications:

- The applicant or one of their parents or grandparents must be a paid WFA member for at least one year. Life members are always eligible.
- Requests for applications must be addressed to Mrs. Ruth W. Serozynsky, Chair, Education Committee, 6 McCullough Road, Saugus, MA 01906-2238.
- Final deadline for completed forms is March 1, 2003.
- Only high school graduates who will be attending college 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, 2002. Scholarships will be announced at the WFA Annual Meeting on August 9, and recipients will be notified no later than August 25, 2003. Funds will not be forthcoming until Mrs. Serozynsky has been notified that the student has successfully completed the first term of freshman year.

Websites of interest

Willard Family Website: <http://willardfamilyassn.org>

Lewis & Clark Heritage Trail Foundation: www.lewisandclark.org

Lewis & Clark Heritage Trail Foundation Bicentennial Celebration: www.lewisandclarkphila.org

Willard House and Clock Museum: www.willardhouse.org



St Margaret's, Horsmonden, from an engraving, *circa* 1840