



WILLARD NEWS

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



98th REUNION IN VERMONT

The 98th reunion of the Willard Family Association of America, Inc. took place on August 4 and 5, 2005 at the Comfort Suites Hotel in White River Junction, VT. Forty-eight people were in attendance. The weather was ideal the whole weekend.

Friday afternoon a Board of Directors meeting was held. That evening a chicken supper was enjoyed by all. After supper, Mr. John Rogers gave an interesting talk on the life of Daniel Willard. Daniel Willard started in railroading at an early age and rose to be the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. More on Daniel Willard further along in this newsletter.

Saturday morning, the annual meeting of the Willard Family Association of America, Inc. took place, Judy Hendy presiding. At the start of the meeting, a moment of silence was observed for Alan C. Spooner, long time board member and past president.

The secretary's report was read by Lois Cooley and accepted as read.

The treasurer's report was presented by Kay Willard. It was noted that the Association has approximately \$136, 870.00 on hand. About 22% of this amount is in bank accounts with the remainder in Fidelity Investments.

The finance report was given by John Stephens. The finance committee is now preparing itemized yearly budgets for projected income and expenses. John gave copies of the income and expenses from 2001 through the actual budget for January thru June 2006. He is looking into liability and personal property insurance

as well as being in the process of obtaining tax free status for the Association. The Housing Fund is going towards the archives storage. We need to raise money for this.

Lois Cooley reported that the Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to Justin C. Young of Fayette, TX; Ronald Feher, Berivyn, PA and Saura Jost, St. Paul, MN.

Membership report was given by Marjorie Travis. The current membership is about 720. There are 20 members that are from either Canada or other foreign countries. Since the 2005 annual meeting, the membership has increased by 23, 15 in the new family category and 8 new life members. We do not know the whereabouts of 18 life members.

Under new business, Lois Cooley was nominated and approved to fill the position of 1st Vice President and Richard Willard was nominated and approved to be a new Director. President Judy Hendy appointed a committee of five to plan for the future storage of the Willard Archives. Committee members are John Stephens, Kay Willard, Marjorie Travis, Bill Willard and Karen Willard as advisor. Judy Hendy will be a non-voting member.

A buffet lunch was enjoyed before leaving for the train station. About 2:00 o'clock people gathered at the train station for a ride on the Green Mountain Railroad. The train traveled north along the west side of the Connecticut River. After traveling for about an hour, the train stopped and reversed direction taking us back to the station. A very enjoyable trip was had by all.

DANIEL WILLARD, RAILROAD MAN

Daniel Willard was born January 28, 1861 to Daniel Spaulding Willard and Mary Ann Daniels in North Hartland, VT. His mother died when he was only five years old.

At the age of fifteen, he began teaching at a district school. During this time he was given living accommodations by Mrs. Sarah Taylor. She had a library that contained many books of interest to Daniel. This laid the foundation for reading good literature throughout the rest of his life.

He desired to go to Dartmouth College, but the finances of the family prevented this. He noticed one day an ad for free tuition for any New England boy to the Massachusetts State Agricultural College at Amherst. In 1879, he had to leave the school because of bad eyesight. On the fiftieth anniversary of his class of 1882 a high scholastic honor was conferred upon him.

He came back to his father's farm. A friend of his father offered him a job on the section gang of the Vermont Central at 90 cents a day. Thus started his railroad career. He then went to the Connecticut and Passumpsic in Vermont. Starting as a section hand he slowly worked his way up to an engineer.

He ventured west and became an engineer for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway. He then went to work for the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste Marie, affectionately known as the "Soo". He worked there for fourteen years doing many jobs from maintenance to eventually becoming superintendent.

He left the "Soo" and went with the Baltimore and Ohio, then the Erie, then the Burlington and finally back to become the president of the Baltimore and Ohio. It is noted that he has maintained the presidency with inspiration, justice, human sympathy and understanding for more than a quarter of a century. Herbert Hoover once said "I have always valued Mr. Willard as one of the best Americans ever born".

A book entitled *Daniel Willard Rides the Line* by Edward Hungerford was published by G. P. Putman's Sons, New York, 1938. Excerpts from this book were taken for this article.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

It was voted at the October Board of Directors Meeting to have annual meetings alternate between the east and west coasts.

The 2007 reunion will be held in Prescott, Arizona over Columbus Day weekend. Two Willards will be honored.

Wallace W. Willard – Mail carrier who also rode with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish American War.

Frances Willard Munds – Elected to the Arizona Senate, 2nd woman in the USA to be elected to a state legislature. (The first was in Wyoming.)

The 100th reunion will be held in the Devens, Harvard and North Grafton areas of Massachusetts on October 17, 18 & 19, 2008. Plans are still being made. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Watch for the 2007 reunion information in the Spring 2007 newsletter.



WILLARD ITEMS FOR SALE

Please make checks payable to Willard Family Association

Willard Family Association historical coverlets and totes available. Totes can be made into nice pillows.

We have 2 coverlets left. Coverlets will not be available after these are gone.

Coverlets \$50.00 plus \$9.00 S&H

Totes \$30.00 plus \$3.00 S&H

Contact Lois A. Cooley

1460 Pleasant Street, Barre, MA 01005

Tel. 978:355-2367

Books

Henry 2 books are available, but inventory is low. \$50.00 plus \$5.00 S&H.

Reprint of the 1964 "History of the Willard Family Association of America" by Stephen F. Willard, Jr. Known in the old days as "The Blue Book." Our 38 page reprint has a blue cover with 16 pages of black and white pictures. \$4.50 plus \$1.50 S&H.

Contact: Catherine A. Willard, WFA Treasurer

P.O. Box 591, Athol, MA 01331-0591

Willard Genealogies on CD.

Both the 1915 Willard Genealogy and the Willard Memoir are available on CD. Please check the WFA web site for further information, www.willardfamilyassn.org



FINAL SALE WILLARD COAT OF ARMS

We are down to just a few of our 8.5 x11 inch **Coat of Arms** from an order placed in the 1980's.

Once these are gone we will be moving to a new printer that will run smaller amounts for us. This means the price will be going up! Today is the day to order your Coat of Arms before the price increase. They make great Christmas, Holiday and Birthday gifts. They will look wonderful hanging on any wall of a Willard household, even if your last name is now Berry, McKinnon or Jones.

We only have 15 left. When they are gone they are gone. Final sale price is \$14.95 including shipping. The new print run will be priced at \$29.95 including shipping. The background and size is different from the existing.

Contact: Catherine A. Willard, WFA Treasurer, P.O. Box 591, Athol, MA 01331-0591. Make checks payable to Willard Family Association.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The following became life members in 2006: Kathy A. Huff of Milford Michigan, Robert W Swift of Hebron, Maine and John W. Willard of Cortez, Colorado.

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**IN MEMORIAM, ALAN C. SPOONER,
DECEMBER 8, 1931-MAY 23, 2006**

The Board of Officers and Directors of the Willard Family Association would like to express our sense of loss of Alan's death. Alan served as President from 1991 to 1997 and, with his wife Anita, was the moving force behind six memorable reunions, including the 1996 reunion at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. More recently, he filled the offices of Executive Vice President and Auditor for the WFA.

We remember his sense of humor and his love of history. Alan wanted all of us to realize that we are part of a long line of ancestors that formed this country that he loved and served. We miss you, Alan.

WEBMASTER NOTE

The WFA website has been moved to a much larger, faster server and the operating software replaced. It has much more efficient and useful features than the previous system. The e-mail server was also upgraded and this has caused some problems. For a time, e-mails were held in limbo until the forwarding addresses were corrected. It appears that the problems have now been resolved. Please let me know if any are still having difficulties with the e-mails and any other suggestions you may have.

We are continuing to get several requests each week for information about ancestors and how to join WFA. The search engine continues to report many hits on the name and place indices as people look to see what names are in 1915 and Henry 2 books we have indexed online.

Marjorie Travis visited Fruitlands near Harvard, MA and spoke with the curator about allowing us to post material about the Phinehas Willard farm site they have recently excavated there. He sent two pictures and they have now been posted on our website along with a link to the Fruitlands website.

WFA website address is www.willardfamilyassn.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE HISTORIAN

The number of requests for genealogical help remains on the increase. Because of this, one particular problem is also on the increase. Many people making a request for genealogical assistance feel that we have the information they seek at our fingertips and that we will be getting back to them within a few days. Therefore, I feel I need to address this so anyone sending in a request is aware of just what is involved in researching one's ancestor.

Dealing with the Willard family only, there are four commonly known published Willard family genealogies and seven more published privately by smaller groups of descendants. These carry individual lines further than the principal ones such as the 1915 Willard Genealogy. An example of these lesser known ones would be the Willard-Bradley Genealogy published by the family that owned the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Using the 1915 Willard Genealogy as an example, it contains thousands of family individuals and obviously took many years to compile. For each name contained in this book, there are probably thousands more that are not listed. These are only the descendants of Major Simon Willard.

It is so important that when a request is sent, as much information as possible is included, such as grandparents, where and when they were born, married and died. All information you have as far back as possible is most helpful.

I enjoy genealogical research very much. Contact me by all means if you are a member of WFA and we can work together. Any information you provide concerning a person who is living or passed away after 1930, by law, I must keep confidential.

NECROLOGY 2006

Edwin F. Willard #587 Niles, Michigan	John A. Willard Billings, Montana
Helen Crooks Gibbons Jacksonville, Florida	Helen B. Willard Billings, Montana
Alison Willard Barker Westbrook, Maine	Esther Bridges South Weymouth, Massachusetts
Mary Jane Whipple Columbus, Ohio	Clair I. Jean Hudson, New Hampshire
Marine Capt. Bryan Willard Hummelstown, Pennsylvania	Mrs. John A. Lampe Delray Beach, Florida
Myrtle R. Willard Westhampton, Massachusetts	Marjorie Willard Flickinger Bakersfield, California
George W. Mackey Cambridge, Massachusetts Alan C. Spooner #481 Scituate, Massachusetts	Homer M. Willard Chillicothe, Missouri Sandra Jean Hill Montrose, Michigan
Gates Willard Manhasset, New York	Donna Yanish Willard East Hartford, Connecticut

ARLAN D. WILLARD MEMORIAL SCHOLASHIP

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, 2007.
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, 2007. Scholarships will be announced at the WFA annual meeting and recipients will be notified no later than August 20, 2007. Check will be issued after receiving transcripts of successful completion of first semester.

WILLARD HOUSE CHRISTMAS TEA

The Willard House Annual Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2006, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. at the museum located at 11 Willard Street in North Grafton, Massachusetts. Guests are invited to visit the historic Willard House and enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas. Tour the museum decorated by the Grafton Garden Club in the Colonial tradition, enjoy tea and pastries, children's activities and clock making demonstrations. Live music performed throughout the afternoon by Apple Tree Arts. The event is sponsored by AG Edward & Sons and admission is free. Reservations are requested, but not required. For reservations, please call (508) 839-3500 or visit www.willardhouse.org.

WILLARD TRUSTEES ELECT NEW DIRECTOR
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At its 2006 Annual Reunion in White River Junction, VT, the Willard Family Association elected Richard "Rick" Griswold Willard, Jr. as a member of the Board of Directors. His aunt, Ruth Willard, previously served as President of the WFA. Rick is an independent insurance broker and lives in Cromwell Connecticut. The Board welcomes Rick and looks forward to his assistance with the work of the Finance Committee.

WILLARD PARK DEDICATED IN FRANKLIN, CA

An element of lasting national history found its way to the Franklin area when Private Alexander Hamilton Willard, the last surviving member of the first Lewis and Clark expedition, settled there with his family.

Mr. Willard's relocation to California came after a lengthy career as a private in the Corps of Discovery, the official name of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Willard joined the Corps in 1803 and became one of nearly 50 to join Captains Lewis and Clark in their mission to map the West in 1804.

Not much is known about Willard's upbringing. What is known is he was born in Charleston, NH on August 24, 1778. He left his hometown sometime in the 1790s, served time in the army, and was intrigued by the prospect of heading West with the Corps in 1803.

Willard was a large man, referred to as "the giant from New Hampshire", physically fit, strong and a talented blacksmith. His service career included several life-threatening experiences - the most documented of which was his court-martial and conviction for falling asleep while on sentry duty during the first month of the infamous journey. It was an offense that could have been punishable by death, but instead he received 100 lashes, leaving scars on his body for life.

When the expedition ended, Willard was chosen as the government blacksmith for the Sauk and Fox Indian tribes. Later, Willard married and moved to Platteville, Wisconsin. His family grew to include seven sons and five daughters. Two of his sons were named for his friend, Meriweather Lewis and William Clark.

In 1832, Willard, at the age of 54, fought alongside four of his sons in the Blackhawk War. Even at that age he was considered a robust and formidable soldier.

In 1849, Willard's eldest son headed west to explore the gold fields of California. He wrote home about the lush valley of Sacramento. In 1851, at age 71, lured by the memories of his experiences out West, Alexander Willard moved his family to California. They settled in the area south of Sacramento, on lower Stockton Road, then known as Georgetown. The town later came to be known as Franklin.

Alexander Willard lived out the remainder of his life in Franklin, dying March 6, 1865. His grave remains at the Franklin cemetery at Franklin Boulevard and Hood-Franklin Rd. A plaque placed there by the Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America recognizes him as the "Giant of Georgetown".

In a nod to our community's past and the nation's history, the Board of Directors and staff of the Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) are pleased to dedicate a park in honor of Alexander Hamilton Willard. The park is located at 9650 Cresleigh Parkway and is two to three miles from the cemetery .

The above is taken from the Elk Grove CSD website. Portions of the profile come from the files of Elizabeth Pinkerton and "The Giant of Georgetown," published March 4, 1984 in the Elk Grove Citizen.

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.

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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