

WINDSOR Almanac

2008



Happy Birthday, Windsor

- Windsor is 375 years old
- Schedule of Festivities
- New Windsor Photo Book
- New Windsor Coin
- Chronology of Historical Events
- Historical Society Program
- Windsor Art Center
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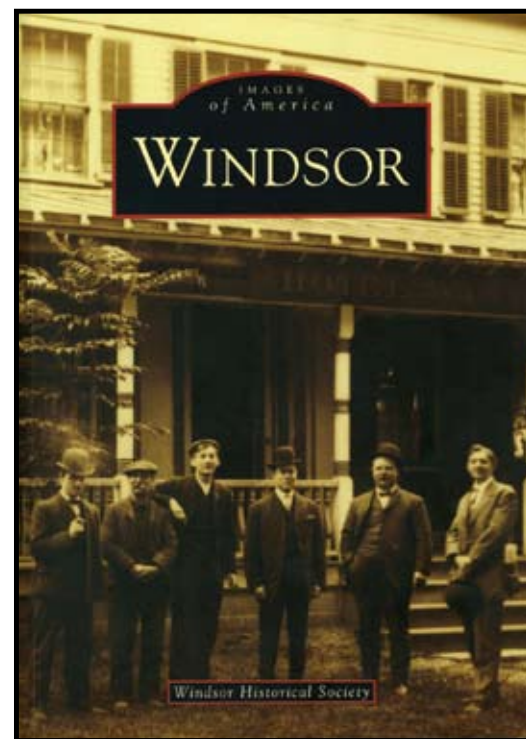
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WINDSOR Almanac

2008

- Welcome to the 375th**
Your guide to this townwide birthday party.
- Festivities Calendar**
And there's more to come!
- Thoroughly Modern Windsor**
How many towns have a festival for a fish?
- Chronology of Historical Events**
From 1614 to 2008... a brief history of Windsor.
- Concentrated History of Windsor**
A graphical tour of the state's oldest town.
- Windsor "Firsts"**
The first "this" and the first "that" in the first town.
- Did You Know That...**
Windsor historical trivia.
- Historical Society 2008 Program**
A full year of activities and events
- The Patricia Herms Fund**
Providing direct aid to women fighting cancer.
- Windsor Arts Center**
New arts gallery at the old Freight House.
- Thank You to Our Advertisers**
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On the cover: Mayor Donald Trinks in front of the Olliver Ellsworth Homestead. Photo by Enita Jubrey.

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happy, birthday, Windsor!



Mother of our Constitution State

Inspired by hope and Freedom's charm, our fathers crossed the sea
To find a home where right should rule and teach men to be free.
Here Ludlow's learned pen inscribed their glorious Civic Code
By which they built the Freemen's Commonwealth for their abode.

That code, the first in all the world that framed and built a State,
Immortalized their name and won them fame as wise and great.
They builded for humanity and showed the holy way
That freemen everywhere most dearly love to live today.

Thru stress and storm, thru sun and rain, their chart has been our guide.
In it our hope, our faith, our trust, our love must still abide.
New days have brought new duties. Old practices are now uncouth,
But love of Liberty remains as steadfast as the truth.

Hail then, blest Town, the mother of our Constitution State,
Which faith and trust and human rights combine to consecrate,
Preserve we will, preserve we must, what years for us have won,
And years to come shall carry on the tasks by them begun.

*Daniel Howard
325th Anniversary
September, 1958*

Welcome to the 375th

1983 – 2008 –Where did the years go?
We just finished celebrating Windsor's 350 years and in September 2008 we will be celebrating its 375th birthday!

The only choice was using the facts from the book produced for the 350th. So if some of the following is familiar, it is! We can't change history, but we can copy it. This could not have been accomplished without the words of Henry R. Stiles, "The Story of Ancient Windsor, Vol. 1; Daniel Howard, "A History of Old Windsor"; Lou Fowles, "The Fowles History of Windsor, CT", and "Celebrating our 350th Anniversary 1633-1983" a compilation of the above works produced in 1983. There has been more research into Windsor's written history and some added highlights to the 375th chronology.

In these pages will be 'Firsts for Windsor', 'Did you Know that', and a chronological history of events that made Windsor the great town that it is.

We have also asked Everett Dowe, Mayor in 1983 and Daniel Dowe, who wrote an article as a high school student in 1983 to contribute to this publication.

The committee, which includes town employees, the Chamber of Commerce and the Windsor Historical Society, under the direction of Chairman John T. Pier, are volunteering their time and energy to provide a year of celebrating. In the following pages you will see a list of some of the scheduled events for the coming months, culminating in a week of celebration September 20 through 26, 2008. Updated information on upcoming events may be found at www.Windsor375.com as more events are planned.

Anita M. Mips, Windsor 375th Anniversary Committee

Festivities Calendar

There is more to come!!
Visit the 375th website at: www.windsor375.com for updates and more information.

Spring, 2008: Reception honoring daughter towns and their historic societies
Loomis Chaffee School

April 26, 2008: Four Centuries House Tour
Historical Society

April 2008: Reading of "The Purpled Heart of Danny Bissell" - Jesters

September 2008: 'Come Home to Windsor' Picnic for Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor at the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead

September 13 & 14, 2008: Quilt Show, Oliver Ellsworth Homestead

September 13, 2008: Antiques Appraisal Day at Windsor Historical Society

September 20, 2008: 375th Anniversary Gala at Hilton Hartford 7:00 p.m. - Friends of Northwest Park Country Fair 10-4 (Raindate 9/21, 12-5)

September 21, 2008: Union Street Tavern Trot and 5K Road Race

September 27, 2008: Parade and Fireworks.
Parade Application on page 20.

Date to TBA: "Arsenic and Old Lace" – based on true Windsor story –Jesters



The Woodland String Band from Philadelphia will join us for the parade September 27.

Established in 1926, it has competed in the annual Philadelphia Mummers Parade every year since. They perform a unique brand of Philly style entertainment that includes music from the reed, string and percussion instruments combined with the wearing of colorful fancy costumes, consistent with each year's new theme. The members of Woodland pride themselves on being a family organization, currently including seventeen father and son combinations, one of which includes three generations. Plan to view the parade.

Thoroughly Modern Windsor

Back in 1982 and 1983, I was finishing up high school and serving as a member of Windsor's 350th Anniversary Committee. My particular task was to help write the history of Windsor as part of the publications subcommittee, and I specifically focused on "Modern Windsor." Although I cringe a bit when I re-read what I wrote as a high school junior, I can't help to be pleased with the fact that I participated in such a historic part of Windsor's history. Re-reading my old piece and knowing that Windsor's 375th anniversary is fast approaching, I also can't help but reflect on what has happened to my hometown since our last celebration.

I suppose progress and development are what have mostly happened in Windsor. Many housing developments in Poquonuck and Rainbow—heck, in every little corner of the town—have increased the population, and it seems like the town that once had an almost rural feel to it when I was a kid in the 1970s is now a thoroughly suburban community. Combine that with the astounding and highly lucrative accumulation of corporate offices and headquarters on Day Hill and up on International Drive, along with new shopping centers on Kennedy Road and on Route 75, and the town seems almost unrecognizable when compared to what it was in 1983 and certainly completely different from what my parents saw when they moved to town in 1954. Looking back, I can't help but miss some aspects of town life that we no longer have in Windsor—the old Windsor House where my parents spent many Friday night dinners, the Plaza where I saw my first movie ("The Aristocats") and where Windsor kids could have entertainment for only 99 cents. I miss the old Shad Derby parade, when it started down in Deerfield and seemed to last for hours. And does the 12 noon whistle still blow? And I can't remember the last time they set off the practice alarm at the high school on the first Saturday of the month—ready to warn of attacking Russians or other civil defense emergencies—I used to thrill to the thought of such dangerous possibilities.

Maybe it is natural to miss those parts of a community that you experienced when you were a child—they occupy a place of safety and security in your memory and psyche. And much like the days of 50 cent a gallon gas, 99 cent movies at the Plaza Theater will never return. Despite that reality, however, much of what made Windsor the town it was remains. There may be more houses, buildings, cars, and people in town, but the essential character of Windsor has only deepened. It is still the rather unpretentious place where people enjoy their lives—their homes, their families, their town—and look toward improving themselves while preserving the good that surrounds them every day. After all, how many towns have an entire festival—a parade, a carnival, even a beauty pageant—dedicated to a fish—often cooked on a plank of wood—and caught beside a lovely old railroad bridge with graceful arches made of stone?

*Daniel Dowe
October 30, 2007*

Dear Windsorites:

I am so honored to be your Mayor during the celebration of Windsor's 375th birthday. As Connecticut's first town, we have so much to celebrate!

As a Windsor native, having attended school in Windsor and now a business owner, I am so very proud of our town. I have watched Windsor's growth and I am thankful for the far sighted thinking of the town fathers who proposed and designed our wonderful industrial area on Day Hill Road, while preserving our Historic District on Palisado Avenue. We have come a long way – all while maintaining the small town feeling that makes Windsor the special community we live in today.

As we celebrate our 375th birthday during 2008 with many different activities, I can't help but look forward to what great things are in store for Windsor by the time our 400th birthday arrives in 2033!

I look forward to working together with you in all the wonderful milestones our town has in store, knowing that Windsor has such a bright future ahead.

Donald A Trinks
Mayor

Windsor 375th Anniversary Commemorative Coins on Sale!



Don't miss the opportunity to buy this very special commemorative keepsake of Windsor's 375th Anniversary. The coins are 1 3/4 inches in diameter and made of antique brass metal, painted and finished with an epoxy coating. They come in a clear plastic envelope and are available for \$5.00 in the Windsor Town Clerk's Office located at Windsor Town Hall, 275 Broad Street.



Thank you, Sponsors

chronology of historical events

1600's

1614 Adrien Block, a Dutch sea captain, left New Amsterdam (New York) to explore the northern shore of Long Island Sound. Captain Block discover the Connecticut River and sailed up the river as



far as the present town of Windsor where he sighted an Indian village on the east bank. This exploration was the basis for the Dutch claim on the Connecticut Valley.

• Many Indian tribes occupied the valley at this time. While all Indians in the Northeast were classified as Algonquians, many separate sub-tribes existed. The friendliest of these were the Poquonnucs west of the river and Podunks on the east bank. The

only unfriendly and warlike tribes were the Pequot Indians in the southeastern part of the state and the Mohawks in the west. They constantly harassed the River Indians and then the white men after their arrival.

1631 Sachems (chiefs) from the Wahginagut and Natanawnut tribes journeyed to Boston (Plymouth and Bay Colonies) and described the fertile valley they lived in and the difficulties they had with Mohawk and Pequot tribes. They told Governor Winslow and Governor Winthrop that this was an ideal location for while settles and promised food for the first winter as well as heavier pelts.

1633 Governor Winslow, after a personal visit, agreed to send a group led by William Holmes, who sailed through Long Island Sound and up the Connecticut River to a point about 500 feet south of the mouth of

the Farmington River on September 26th, naming the settlement "Mattatuck" from the Indians of the area.

1635 Francis Stiles and a party of 27 (known as "the Lords and Gentlemen") representing Lords Say and Seal, Lord Brook, Sir Richard Saltonsall and others, arrived with a patent claiming "all the land from the sea (Long Island Sound) 120 miles into the country, and the Narragansett River (in Rhode Island) to the South Sea (Pacific Ocean) on the west."

• Rev. John Warham and 60 of his congregation organized in Plymouth, England arrives via Dorchester, Massachusetts and established the First Congregational Church in Windsor (the oldest Congregational Church in the Nation).

• After much disagreement over ownership of land, Rev. Warham's larger

Dorchester group takes charge, renaming the area Dorchester.

1636 April 26th, Roger Ludlow and William Phelps represent Dorchester at the first General Court (equiva-



lent to today's Legislature) with representation from Watertown and Newtown. Roger Ludlow is elected the first president of the General Court (the equivalent of today's first Governor).

1637 The General Court changed the names of three river towns Dorchester to Windsor, Watertown to Wethersfield and Newtown to



Hartford.

• A 'palizado' (fort) is constructed north of the Farmington River as the Pequot Indians threaten the safety of the three groups (Holmes-Warha Stiles). This forces them to share the territory within the 'palizado' (Now Palisado Green) and to live together harmoniously for their common protection.

• Captain John Mason of Windsor, the Colony's first great military leader and organizer of the State's militia system, leads the three river towns to victory over the Pequot Indians at their fort in Mystic.

1638 The Great Flood. Rain began to fall on March 11 and continued for 22 days, uprooting

trees and taking away hay and homes.

1639 January 14 The movement for separation was given its spiritual and political basis in a famous ser-



mon by Thomas Hooker in which he declared "the foundation of authority is laid, firstly, in the free consent of the people" – a principle adopted by Connecticut settlers and maintained every since. It was Roger Ludlow who implemented the word of God by the Fundamental Orders of 1639. This famous instrument of government marked the road to democracy. While its significance has been debated, it is agreed that here was adopted "the first written

constitution of a purely representative republican form of government known to history.

• Roger Ludlow is appointed first Deputy or Lieutenant Governor.

1640 Lt. Walter Fyler was deeded several pieces, including house and lot on Palisado Green, for services in the Pequot War.

• The first planting of tobacco in Connecticut took place in Windsor.

1643 Roger Ludlow represents Connecticut at the New England Confederation.



1644 Rev. Ephraim Huit, assistant to Rev. Warham, dies. His gravestone in the Old Burying Ground, Palisado Cemetery, is the oldest original grave marker in Connecticut.

1646 Roger Ludlow is asked to draw up a Code of Laws – known today as Ludlow's Code. It was completed in 1650.

1649 Bissell Ferry began its first run across the Connecticut River. It continued for 268 years, until 1917.

1657 John Branker was named the first schoolmaster. He received five pounds for his year's work (\$16.67).

1658 The first Secretary of the state from Windsor; Daniel Clark, served the state eight years.

1659 There are now 31 dwellings in Windsor.

1662 Charter (State's

Constitution in 1818) was granted, joining New Haven with the Connecticut Colonies. Matthew Allen, Henry Wolcott, Daniel Clarke and Anthony Haukins represent Windsor as petitioners.

1669 An addition is added to Old Stone Fort (built earlier – date unknown) for protection against the Indians. The fort stood on Palisado Avenue one mile north of the Farmington River.

1670 Simsbury separates from Windsor – the first daughter town.

1675 King Philip's War – This war involved most of the river towns and took the life of John Fitch, the soldier, who died of wounds received in the Swamp War, leaving his land and good "for the promoting of a school here in Windsor" in 1676. This fund, known as the "Union School Fund"

still exists.

• Brickmaking industry began and continued well into the 1960's when the Mack Brickyard (present site of Williamsburg apartments) closed. In the heyday of brickmaking, there were more than 40



brickyards in Windsor.

1676 Simsbury residents return to their 'mother town' when Simsbury is completely destroyed by Indians during the King Philip's War.

1679 Roger Wolcott was born in Windsor on January 4.

1680 Henry Wolcott died. His will disposed of lands and other (continued on page 8)



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personal possessions to his wife and sons, and the first slave in Connecticut.

Because it was the first slave recorded, Windsor can lay claim not only to the first, but one of the last slaves in the state: Nancy Toney, "Old Nance", the property of the Loomis family, who stayed on with the family after being freed and died in

and lay claim to any unimproved land held through the King's Charter to the Governor and the Company of Connecticut.

1700's

1707 Roger Wolcott became a selectman for the Town of Windsor.

1708 Surveys and investigations began for the claims Hartford and Windsor made on these



1857. She was buried in Palisado Cemetery where the Loomis family erected a monument in her memory.

1686 Windsor and Hartford joined forces to acquire all remaining land before the English could come

very large tracts of land, which were resolved with the granting of the patents by the General Court to Windsor and Hartford.

1709 Windsor sends Roger Wolcott to the General Assembly as its Representative.

1712 Coventry separates from Windsor.

1713 Enfield (south side) separates from Windsor

• Suffield (south side) separates from Windsor

1715 Tolland separates from Windsor

1719 Litchfield separates from Windsor

1720 Bolton (divided to create Vernon in 1808) separates from Windsor

1732 Windsor was granted much State land. As land was sold and new parishes and townships were formed, Windsor became known as "the mother of Connecticut towns". Twenty towns as they exist today were partially or totally part of Windsor.

1736 Wintonbury (Bloomfield) separates from Windsor.

1737 Harwinton separates from Windsor.

1740 Torrington separates from Windsor

1741 Roger Wolcott elected Lieutenant Governor and served until 1750.

1750 Roger Wolcott becomes Governor of Connecticut, the only person from Windsor to hold this office. The Roger Wolcott Elementary School in Wilson is named in his honor.

1768 East Windsor separates from Windsor

1775 23 Windsor militiamen rush to Massachusetts in the "Lexington Alarm". Town contributes more than its share throughout the Revolutionary War.

1779 Barkhamstead separates from Windsor.

• Colebrook separates from Windsor.

1787 John Milton Niles was born in the Elm Grove section of Windsor, at 1257 Poquonock Avenue, in the Niles Homestead. Mr. Niles founded The Hartford Times in 1817; served twice as United States Senator from Connecticut and was appointed Postmaster General in President Martin VanBuren's administration. One of his greatest contributions involved leadership in

anti-slavery movements and establishing the Connecticut Constitution of 1818 – granting equality before the law for all religious denominations.

His portrait, returned to Windsor, is at the Windsor Historical Society on an extended loan from the Wadsworth Atheneum.

1788 Oliver Ellsworth, member of the 2nd Continental Congress, is named one of five to draft the United States Constitution.

1789 Oliver Ellsworth is elected Senator from Connecticut and made chairman of committee to organize the Judiciary.

1796 Mr. Ellsworth is appointed 3rd Chief Justice of the United State Supreme Court.

1800's

1800 Horace Hayden, M.D. enters into new profession of dentistry. In 1840 Mr Hayden was the founder of the Baltimore College of Dentistry and recognized as the father of dentistry. - There were 96 dwell-

ings in town beginning of the century.

1806 Born in the South – Sandy Archer escaped to Windsor through the Underground Railroad. He lived a Christian life and died at the age of 108. Archer Road, near his homestead was named in his honor in the 1990's.



1823 The north half of Manchester separates from Windsor, forming part of new town.

1830 Windsor Volunteer Fire Company was formed by subscription.

1833 Inventor Christopher Spencer was born. His inventions included the repeating rifle, the first pump action shotgun, steam automobiles, and the first automatic screw machine. The Spencer rifle became famous during the Civil War and 'the taming

of the West'. (the new condominium complex at 33 Mechanic Street was the factory of Mr. Spencer).

1841 Edward Sill, a celebrated poet was born. He died in 1887. His family home is now a part of the Milo W. Peck Community Center and used for a

meeting place. (At one time it was part of the Chaffee School. The house was built in 1772 by James Hooker.)

1844-45 A wooden trestle bridge for the New Haven Railroad System was constructed across the Farmington River near landing place and wharf where ocean going vessels took on cargoes of Windsor brick over 150 years ago. The present stone bridge was built in 1868.

1854 Windsor Locks, the last of the 'daughter towns' separates from Windsor.

1856 Ruel Compton Tuttle, well known artist, was born. One of his paintings is of the John Fitch High School.

1867 Hayden Hall was organized as a boarding and day preparatory school for young women. It later became know as the Campbell School for girls and was located on Broad Street (on what is now the Windsor Federal Savings campus in Windsor center) .

1872 Leland P. Wilson was born to a family of prominent brickmakers from the southern part of town (named after his family –Wilson Station). He died in 1950 leaving money for the Windsor Historical Society, Wilson Congregational Church and the Wilson Public Library building.

1877 November 3 – at town meeting it was voted to build a Town Hall in Windsor Center, cost \$7000; and one at

Poquonock, cost \$3500. Annual town meetings alternated between halls until March 1920 when it was voted town meetings for the transaction of town business be discontinued at Poquonock (The present Poquonock Fire Company is on the site of the original Poquonock Town Hall).

1887 The Hayden Station area was home to many African Americans. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was organized as the first black church and constructed with help from local philanthropist, Frederick Thrall. Moved across the street and renamed the Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in memory of Sandy Archer in 1915.

1888 Windsor Library Association was formed and books were stored in Town Hall.

1893 Sage Park Horse Racing Track opened – site of present Windsor High School grounds. Track burned in the early 1940's.

1895 George W. Hodge begins two years as State Treasurer.

• April 12 – Daughters of American Revolution granted charter to start Windsor Chapter.

1898 The Stony Street School was built, serving Windsor into the 1960's. It was restored in the 1990's under direction of Robert Geisel and is a town building still being used.

• Percival Hopkins Spencer, son of Christopher M. Spencer, was born. He became an aviation pioneer, particularly amphibious aircraft. He made his first flight in 1911 at the age of 13 in a hang glider he created. He broke the light airplane altitude record -18, 571 feet – piloting a Curtiss Robin monoplane. He had a long history in the aviation field. He died at the age of 97 and is buried next to his father.

1900s

1901 Windsor Library Association buys Mather House. (location (continued on page 11)

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Concentrated History in Windsor

History enthusiast Ted Anderson of Windsor recently led artist Phil Lohman on a tour of one of the state's oldest towns, pointing out its connections to slavery. They didn't need to walk far to see a lot.



Toney grave marker

Buried a short distance apart in the graveyard behind the First Congregational Church on Palisado Avenue are Oliver Ellsworth, a founding father, and Nancy Toney, a slave. Ellsworth, as one of Connecticut's three delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, participated in compromises that drew Deep South states into the Union but extended the slave trade. Nearly 50 years later his son, William Ellsworth, defended Prudence Crandall in her fight to teach young black women at her school in Canterbury.

When Toney died Dec. 10, 1857, at age 82, she was, so far as is known, the last slave in Connecticut. She was about 10 years old and ineligible for freedom when the state passed a gradual emancipation law in 1784. As a child she was given to the wife of Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee of Windsor and later became the property of their daughter, Abigail Loomis, who reputedly took affectionate care of "Old Nance" in her dotage. The Loomis family put a marker on Toney's grave, and paintings survive of her sitting in their house on Broad Street. Now, a Fleet Bank branch occupies the brick house. Fleet, which traces its origins to an old Rhode Island bank, is one of five corporations sued earlier this year for slavery reparations.



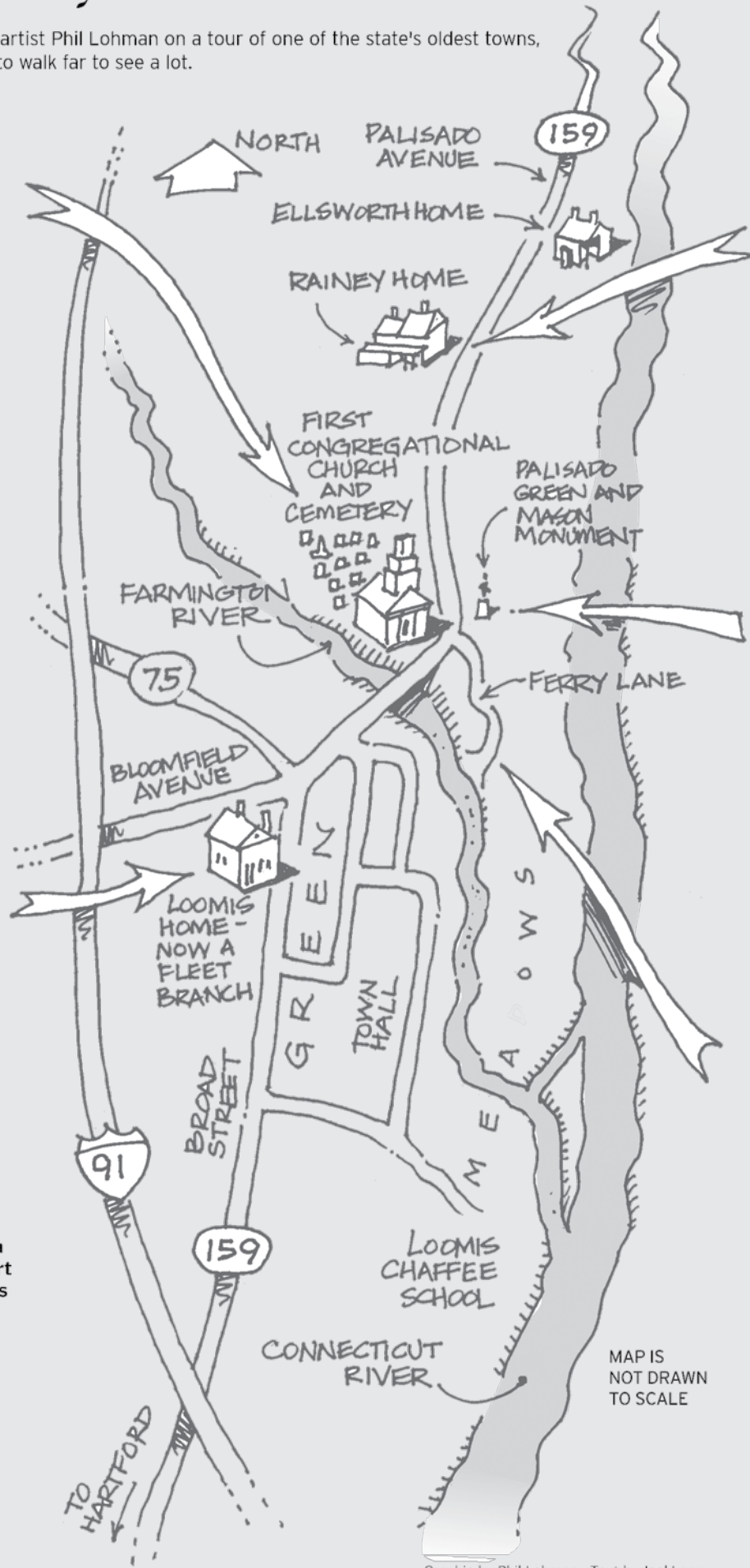
Ellsworth grave marker

If Windsor was home to the last slave in Connecticut, it may also have been home to the first slave identified in an estate record. According to Henry Stiles' old history of colonial Windsor, the slave was a man named Cyrus who in 1680 was listed as belonging to Henry Wolcott Jr. and being worth 30 pounds.



This Civil War-era painting by Osbert Burr Loomis of his father's house on Broad Street in Windsor depicts a figure in the doorway that is believed to be Nancy Toney.

Courtesy of The Loomis Chaffee School



Graphic by Phil Lohman Text by Joel Lang



North of the Palisado Avenue green is the house that was the summer residence of Joseph Hayne Rainey, a South Carolina slave who after the Civil War became one of the first

African Americans to serve in the U.S. Congress. In Windsor, Rainey belonged to the Congregational Church. He wasn't its first black member. Almost since its founding, the church had admitted black members, many of them slaves.

Across from the church, a statue of Windsor's Maj. John Mason, drawing his sword, stands on a green once enclosed by the wooden walls that protected the town's original settlers and gave Palisado Avenue its name. In 1637, as a captain, Mason led the force that attacked and burned the Pequot Indian fort in Mystic. Hundreds of Pequots, many of them women and children, were killed and some of the survivors were sold into slavery, a common fate for Indian captives in the colonial era. Mason's statue was first erected in 1889 near the site of what since has been called a massacre. It was moved to Windsor in 1996, after descendants of the Pequots protested its presence in Mystic.



Mason monument

Down a back lane from Mason's statue, past the Windsor Historical Society, there is a gentle bend in the Farmington River. Now overgrown, this area was an active waterfront when Windsor was a river port. Its ships routinely plied a trade with West Indian sugar colonies worked by slaves. According to Stiles' history of colonial Windsor, the leading merchant was the firm of Hooker & Chaffee. "Their trade was large," Stiles wrote. "From every portion of the country there was constantly pouring in large supplies of horses, beef cattle, wheat, and produce of all and every sort ... Under the bank of the Little River (as the Farmington was called) lay many - sometimes six or seven - coasting vessels and generally some larger English or West India vessels."

of Windsor Public Library, with second addition.

- There were 533 dwellings in town beginning of the century
- 1907** Amy Archer, with her husband, opened 'The Archer Home for the Elderly and Infirm' on Prospect St. Her home became a concern when residents died unexpectedly starting with her husband in 1910, her second husband Michael Gilligan and 48 others over the next years. She was put on trial for killing her victims with arsenic. She was later certified insane and sent to an asylum. Her story is the basis for the play "Arsenic and Old Lace."
- 1908** May 21 - The Windsor Volunteer Fire Department was formed.
- 1914** The Loomis Institute opened.
- 1915** Windsor Fire District was incorporated by special act of the General Assembly.
- 1916** Last of the one-room schools designed and built at Griffin Station.
- 1918** A portable, temporary one room school was placed in Hazelwood.
- 1919** A portable one-room section erected next to school in Griffin Station.
- November 11 - Gray Dickinson Post 59, American Legion held organizational meeting with 58 ex-servicemen present.
- 1921** The Windsor Historical Society was organized and officers elected.
- 1922** The John Fitch High School was built.
- A four room addition was completed on school in 1931.
- In 1933 an eight room addition to school was voted in.

- 1925** The Chaffee School for Girls, counterpart of Loomis Institute was opened.
- 1928** The Warham School was organized for elementary school children.
- 1929** May 20- The North End Volunteer Fire Department began serving the rural portion of Windsor. In 1950 it became the Poquonock Fire Company.
- 1930** Modern Windsor has an area of 30 square miles and was incorporated in July, as part fo the Hartford Metropolitan District. It population (census of 1930) is 8,294. The grand list for 1932 is \$14,809,286. The rate of taxation is 19 1/2 mills. It has 1,982 dwelling houses, eighteen public school buildings, two private preparatory schools, a public library with three branches and nine churches.
- 1931** June 1 - The Zoning Commission was established. Original members were Leland P. Wilson, Oliver J. Thrall, James J. Dillon, Theodore F. Neuhaus and Homer L. Turner.
- An eight room school building at the Highlands was completed: Deerfield School. (It was demolished around 1984)
- November 3 - A vote to create a police department lost by vote of 579-433.
- 1934** February 20 - A blizzard dropped approximately 18" on Windsor.
- 1935** Olga Avenue extension and Pratt Road all became part of Matianuck Avenue.
- June - the Bell School closed.
- October - Town accepted parcel of land known as "Washington Park".
- 1936** May 2, Monday - First annual budget meeting of Town of Windsor - an ordi-

- nance established the annual budget meeting as a special meeting March 30, 1936. (In 1991 Voted to send adjourned Annual Budget meeting to referendum vote yearly)
- June - Windsor Park Commission formed.
- Thrall School closed.
- 1938** September - Hurricane hit Windsor as well as most of Connecticut, \$10,000 was appropriated to defray expenses. Poquonock Community Church lost its steeple.
- 1939** October 4 - At Annual Town Meeting a vote on an Act to create a Board of Police Commissioners was defeated 302 to 789.
- 1940** June 24 - At Town Meeting "Plan for Police Protection" was adopted.
- 1942** October 5 - At Town Meeting it was voted to change the name of Pink Street to Hayden Station Road.
- 1945** The Public building Commission was established.
- December 7 - Raymond B. McHugh Post 4740 Veterans of Foreign Wars was mustered in.
- 1947** June 11 - Voters approve new Council Manager form of Government. (eighth in state to do so). It is interesting to note that, 35 years previous to the Charter Study Committee recommendation, a similar recommendation had been made to a town meeting, in 1912: "to consider the matter of the town employing one man to superintend all town business of whatever kind or character requiring the doing of work, making contracts, or expenditure of from money." The incorporation of Windsor was reconfirmed when the Windsor

(continued on page 12)

Windsor "Firsts"

1. First Church – originally built on Palisado Green around 1639. New one erected on Palisado Avenue, 1794. Reconstructed in 1844.
2. Rev. John Warham – First minister. Built first grist mill in Connecticut 1640 (now Larsen's Hardware)
3. Rev. Ephraim Huit – Teacher, First assistant to Rev. John Warham.
4. Horace Hayden, M.D. – Influenced the opening of the first dental college.
5. Daniel Bissell – One of the first three men to receive the Purple Heart.
6. Bissell Ferry – First ferry in Connecticut, ran 1648 – 1917.
7. Flyer House-Loomis Homestead – first frame houses. Allyn House – first brick house. (Flyer House renamed Strong House in 1999)
8. First Post Office – smallest room in Fyler/Strong House.
9. First tobacco shed Brought to Connecticut Valley from Virginia in 1640, along with first planting of tobacco in Connecticut.
10. Daniel Clark named first Secretary of the State from Windsor in 1658, the second was Julia H. Tashjian in 1982 –both served two terms.
11. 1887 - First black church in Windsor –The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church –renamed in 1915 as Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in memory of Sandy Archer.

Town Charter was adopted.

- December 1 – Richard C Custer was appointed First Town Manager.
- 1949** October 2 – Po-quonock Elementary School was dedicated. It replaced the Niles School (built 1874), Griffin School (Built 1916); Rainbow School (1873), and Elm Grove School (1828). The dedication ceremony was held in conjunction with the Tercentenary Celebration of Po-quonock.
- June – Windsor Chamber of Commerce was organized.
- 1950** Complete remodeling of Poquonock Town Hall for use by North End volunteer Fire Company as a fire station.
- March 18 – the Windsor Lions Club was chartered.
- Town-wide 'Little League' program started in Windsor.
- John M. Niles School was reopened for 1950-51 school year due to overcrowding.
- 1951** January 4 – The Windsor Rod and Gun Club, Incorporated, was chartered.
- 1952** Both John M. Niles and Sidney Hayden Schools closed.
- September –New Windsor High School, with 1400 student capacity, opened at the junction of Sage Park and Capen Streets.

- John Fitch High School converted to elementary school.
- Town Council authorized the position of Town Planner.
- "Windsor Jesters" born as a community theatre group after two years of being 'Dramatic Club' course of a new concept of the times ' Adult Education.
- 1954** Plan of Development was accepted for Windsor.
- 1955** Emma K. Hatheway Branch Library moved into new quarters in the Blazis Block, Poquonock.
- Building permit issued for Combustion Engineering to build a building valued at \$8,000,000.
- Windsor takes lead in area by zoning 2500 acres industrial.
- August 17 – Hurricane Diane. On 19th, Poquonock-Rainbow residents were evacuated, as it was expected the Rainbow Dam might go.
- 1956** Police Department becomes famous as result of hit/run traffic collision. On the basis of a sketch of the driver by victim, excellent work of Hartford Courant photographer (Harry Batz of Windsor) and efficient police work – the driver was apprehended. This episode was filmed for "The Big Story". Many of our own officers and people were in this film.
- Clover Street school was completed.

1957 August 10 – The Veterans Memorial Swimming Pool was dedicated.

1958 September 26 325th Anniversary of Town of Windsor – parade and celebration.

• Ironically opening of final section of I-91 through Windsor

1961 Town Council created the position of Director of Recreation.

Many scenes from the movie "Parrish" starring Troy Donahue, Claudette Colbert, Connie Stevens, Karl Malden were filmed in Windsor - facades of homes in town and the tobacco fields.

1962 Town Clerk George Tudan issued first free license on Valentine's Day, a gesture that has become a tradition and continues today.

• Position of Fire Marshall was established.

• Acquired Stroh Park for recreational and park use.

• Historic District formed on Palisado Avenue

• March – Windsor Women's Club, Inc. was organized

• May 23 – Official Charter received for Civitan Club of Windsor, Inc.

1963 Dunham field, after many years of private ownership, is developed for recreational and park use by volunteer help, now John Welch Park.

• New Windsor Post office building dedicated

1964 Windsor Shopping Center opened

• John F. Kennedy El-

ementary School opened in September.

1965 Luddy House acquired as new Recreation Center.

1966 New Town Hall opened.

• January 20 – The Windsor Kiwanis Club formally swore in its first officers.

1967 January – Windsor Jaycees received their charter.

• April – Windsor Jaycee Wives organized.

1969 March – Windsor Junior Woman's Club, Inc. was organized.

1973 December 18 Ice Storm 'Felix' hits East; most of Windsor without power for days. Schools closed full week.

1975 May 7 – Shad Fest Bureau, Inc was officially chartered to fete the running of the Shad.

• April – Rotary Club of Windsor was organized.

1976 –Addition to Windsor Public Library (the old Mather House on the Green) completed when townspeople gathered together and formed a book brigade that saw all books moved from temporary site on West side of Broad Street to the newly expanded library.

1979 October 3 – Tornado hits homes in Poquonock. Three people lost their lives on this date. The most devastated area was from lower Tunxis Street across River Street and north up Hollowbrook Drive

and continuing into Windsor Locks.

and continuing into Windsor Locks.

1981 Friends of Northwest Park, Inc. were formed.

1982 November 2 - Julia Zakarian Tashjian elected Secretary of the State. "Julie" is only the second person from Windsor elected to this post in town history. She served for eight years.

1983 The 350th Birthday Celebration of the forming of Windsor spanned the full year with a play "The Purpled Heart of Danny Bissell" by Warren Giffin performed by the Windsor Jesters; A Gala Dinner/Dance; the Loomis Fountain was brought back to its original glory; and culminating with a parade and celebration on the Green.

1984 June –Major rain storm floods Windsor – Palisado Avenue not passable for three days.

• November 9 – Railroad Station & Freight House (built in 1869-70) received funding for restoration. Today home of the Windsor Arts Center.

1987 November 11 - 'Caring Connection' Adult Day Care Program opened at L.P.Wilson – today it is located at 330 Windsor Avenue. One of longest running community based adult day health center in the State of Connecticut.

1988 Fair Rent Commission established.

1990 Tobacco Museum opened at Northwest Park

1991 May -Town meeting on the budget was adjourned to referendum of the voters.

Charter change of 1998 made

(continued on page 20)

DID YOU KNOW THAT...



....in 1936, two blasts of the fire whistle at 7:30 am meant no school?

... in 1934, the Town Hall's fuel bill for the entire year was only \$ 227.66?

...to 1937, the major reason for delinquent taxes was 'too poor to pay?'

...in 1950, the average taxpayer paid less than \$120 for all the town's services?

...in 1954, air raid instructions were issued to all residents in case of attack?

... Windsor's population increased nearly 70% From 1950 to 1960?

...the first Shad Derby was held in 1955 as a fishing contest designed to promote the use of the river?

....Windsor's last trolley ran in 1940?

...the first Shad Derby Queen was Joan Domkowski in 1966?

...Windsor has sent one Governor, two Lt. Governors, two Secretaries of the State, and one Treasurer to the State Government in its 375 years?

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Windsor Historical Society 2008 Program



1/17 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM: **"Camera Crazy: Photographers of Windsor 1885-1930"** Free public exhibition opening at Windsor Historical Society. Exhibition highlights five late 19th century photographers who documented people, homes, businesses and events in Victorian Windsor. Exhibition runs through May 3. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

2/9 2 PM - 4 PM: **Making Family Memories:** Preserving Your Family Photographs and Home Movies workshop at Windsor Historical Society. Everything you need to know about safely handling, identifying, preserving, and storing family photographs, albums, and home movies, both old and new. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and students, WHS members \$4. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

2/18-22 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM: **Making Family Memories Vacation Week activities** for children, grades kindergarten through six. Scrapbooking, family crest-making, winter crafts and activities from different cultures. A parent or guardian must remain with the child during the activities. \$5 adults, \$4 seniors,

\$3 children, \$2 members or \$10 per family. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

2/26 10 AM - 12:30 PM: **Making Family Memories:** Oral History Workshop (Part I) at Windsor Historical Society. Learn how to conduct oral history interviews with older family members and/or older residents of Windsor with experts Bruce and Sondra Stave. Free. Reservations required by February 23. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

3/8 1 PM - 3 PM: **Making Family Memories:** A Beginning Scrapbooking Workshop (Part I) at Windsor Historical Society with Windsor scrap-booking expert Renata Shields. Bring eight photographs and learn how to get started with this popular pastime. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$10 per participant. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

3/25 10 AM - 12 PM: **Making Family Memories:** An Oral History Follow-up Workshop (Part II) at Windsor Historical Society. Participants at the February 12 workshop will return to share their first interviewing experiences with the group. What worked well? What

could be improved? Experts Bruce and Sondra Stave will advise. Free. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

3/29 1 PM - 5 PM: **Making Family Memories:** A Beginning Scrapbooking Workshop (Part II) at Windsor Historical Society. Participants from the March 8 workshop return for a concentrated session working on their personal scrapbooking projects with expert Renata Shields, who will present "Getting Organized: How to Sort and Organize your Photos." Pre-registration required. Cost: \$10 per participant. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

4/8 7 PM - 8:30 PM: **Community Reminiscence Night:** Flood Season! An East Windsor Retrospective. Slide lecture at Windsor Historical Society with East Windsor author and historian Doris Burgdorf showing the devastating floods of 1936 and 1955 and the great hurricane of 1938. Windsor residents are invited to bring their memories and photographs of these events to share. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and students, WHS members \$4. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

4/26 10 AM - 4 PM: **Four Centuries House Tour** sponsored by Windsor Historical Society. A selection of historic Windsor residences will be open for public touring. Costumed members of the Windsor Jesters community theater group portraying early homeowners will welcome tour participants. Advance tickets: \$20; day-of-tour tickets \$25. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

5/15 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM: **"Windsor Then and Now:** A Photo History 1890-2008" Discover what has changed and what has remained the same all over Windsor. See views of Deerfield, Hayden Station, Poquonock, Rainbow and Wilson, as well as Windsor Center. Free public exhibition opening at Windsor Historical Society. Exhibition runs through August 30. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

6/3 7:00 PM - 9 PM: **Visions of Windsor:** Photography Contest Evening at Windsor Historical Society. The Society invites local photographers to show up to ten minutes of work in PowerPoint format. Audience members will vote for winners. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and students, WHS members \$4. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

6/14 1 PM - 4 PM: **Bus Tour of Windsor's Historic Sites** with Windsor historian Beverly Garvan. Explore Windsor's highways and byways from the old Poquonock factory sites to Loomis Chaffee School and pick up some hidden clues to the Windsor Then and Now scavenger hunt. \$12 adults, \$11 seniors and students, \$10 WHS members. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

7/12 10 AM - 1 PM: **Four Centuries Gardens Tour** Eight talented Windsor gardeners will open a potpourri of different types of gardens to the public. Co-sponsored by Windsor Historical Society and the Windsor

Garden Club. Tickets: \$15 day-of-tour; \$10 in advance and to Windsor Historical Society and Windsor Garden Club members. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

8/11-15 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM: **Visions of Windsor Summer Camp at Windsor Historical Society.** Students grades 3-6 will discover Windsor's special places on bus tours through town and work with Windsor photographers, artists and quilters to create their own exhibit of Windsor views, make memory boxes and a memory quilt. \$25 per student per day. Bring a lunch, snacks provided. Reservations necessary. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

9/3, 10, 17, 24 7 PM - 9 PM: **Making Family Memories:** Exploring Family History Series with Edward Strickland of the DFAW (Descendants of Founders of Ancient Windsor) and Judith Johnson, Genealogist at Connecticut Historical Society. Learn how artifacts and records such as birth, marriage, and death records and the census, can help you build your family tree. Internet resources and software programs will be covered. \$50 for series; \$15 per session. Reservations necessary. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

9/12 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM: **"The Faces of Windsor: 1850 to the Present"** Free public exhibition opening at Windsor Historical Society. Exhibition features likenesses of Windsor people in silhouettes, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and photographs.

Exhibition runs through year's end. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

9/13 1 PM - 4 PM: **Antiques Appraisal Day at Windsor Historical Society.** For \$5 per artifact, participants can bring manuscripts, and paper goods, clothing and textiles, furniture, glass and ceramics, metal goods, toys and jewelry for analysis and appraisal by regional experts. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

9/23 7:00 PM: **Windsor Historical Society Annual Meeting.** Speaker to be announced.

10/4, 5 10 AM - 4 PM: **Colonial Days in Windsor's Historic District.** Colonial reenactors will demonstrate cooking and crafts at Windsor Historical Society. Cemetery tours, crafts, and planned ac-

tivities throughout both days. Free to the public. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

10/25 3 PM - 5 PM: **Four Centuries Memory Walk** in Palisado Cemetery with the Windsor Jesters. As shadows lengthen, meet Windsor notables from four centuries of Windsor history in Windsor's historic Palisado Cemetery including the town's first minister, a seventeenth century accused witch, the last living slave in Connecticut, and many more. \$10 adults, \$9 seniors and students, \$8 WHS members. Reservations necessary. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

11/8 4 PM - 5:30 PM: **Four Centuries Tea and Fashion Show** at Windsor Historical Society, co-sponsored by

Windsor Women's Club. See costumes from four centuries as you sample Red Rose tea and fancy tea sandwiches and sweets. \$25; \$22.50 WHS and Windsor Women's Club members. Reservations necessary. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

11/18 7 PM - 8:30 PM: **Community Reminiscence Night:** Coming of Age in Windsor with seniors and students at Windsor Historical Society. Hear some of the best storyteller in Windsor who have been part of Windsor Historical Society's community oral history project. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and students, WHS members \$4. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

11/29 10 AM - 4 PM: **Silhouette Portraits:** Faces of Windsor Today with nationally renowned silhouette artist Deborah O'Connor. Have your own or a loved one's likeness immortalized for posterity. Prices start at \$25. Children, pets welcomed. Reservations necessary. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

12/10 10 AM - 11 AM; 1 PM - 2 PM; 7 PM - 8 PM: **A Victorian Christmas Magic Lantern Show** with Terry Borton and the Victorian Magic Lantern Theater at Windsor Historical Society. End Windsor's 375th anniversary year with a very special holiday performance. School classes are invited to sign up for the daytime sessions in advance. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5

seniors and students, WHS members \$4. 688-3813 or www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

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Breast cancer affects women and their families from all walks of life, resulting in great suffering and, in many cases, loss of life. The world does not stop turning while a woman fights breast cancer. There is no break from the day to day struggle to make ends meet, and many women need financial assistance for themselves and their families.

The Patricia Herms Fund was founded in memory of Patricia E. Herms, a courageous and compassionate wife, mother, sister, friend and co-worker who ultimately lost her battle with breast cancer. In life, Pat was always willing to help someone in need and this fund, established in her name, will help to ease the financial and emotional burden on women with breast cancer and their families.

The fund is administered by the Connecticut Breast Cancer Foundation, an established, 501(c)(3) non-profit, statewide organization whose mission is: "Stop the breast cancer epidemic through education, advocacy and providing direct aid to women fighting the disease."

Donations to The Patricia Herms Fund will be used to help with emergency expenses, arising from the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and will make a real difference in the lives of women fighting breast cancer and their families in the State of Connecticut.

The assistance will be provided through grants to women who have a financial need. Each request for assistance will be reviewed by the Emergency Fund Board of the Connecticut Breast Cancer Foundation and will be

made in accordance with the availability of funds.

The mission of The Patricia Herms Fund is to increase the availability of money needed to help these brave women and their families.

Please make your tax deductible contribution payable to:

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WIN-TV 5 1921 Windsor Community Television

Be sure to tune in to WIN-TV (cable channel 5) to stay informed of the many scheduled events taking place during Windsor's 375th Anniversary.

Oliver Ellsworth Homestead
Calendar of Events

July 26, 2008 *Ice Cream Social and Yard Sale* - 9am - 3pm - Oliver Ellsworth Homestead, 778 Palisado Avenue. www.ctdar.org/OEH/index.html or 688-8717 for more information or to rent yard sale space.

September 6, 2008 *Colonial Supper* - 4:30pm - 7:00 pm - Oliver Ellsworth Homestead, 778 Palisado Avenue. Adults \$10, Under 12 \$5. www.ctdar.org/OEH/index.html or 688-8717 for more information.

Twenty-five years ago, Everett B. Dowe, Jr. presided over the 350th anniversary celebration as the Mayor of Windsor. In honor of the upcoming 375th anniversary, he shared the following thoughts along with his son, Dan on page 5.

Everett B. Dowe, Jr.
Windsor Mayor 1981-1983

Twenty-five years ago the citizens of Windsor celebrated the town's 350th anniversary with the theme, "The Town of Tomorrow." Now we are celebrating the accomplishments of our citizens and their leaders as we prepare for our 375th anniversary.

Economic development, the Windsor Public Schools and its employees, town government and its Council, commissions and employees, the diversity of its citizens and preservation of its lands as exemplified by Northwest Park, and the attention to the aesthetics of our industrial sites are examples of our achievements and attention to the fine community of Windsor.

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Windsor 375 Parade Application

The parade in honor of Windsor's 375th Anniversary is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2008. The parade will begin at the Windsor High School/Sage Park Middle School complex located at 25 Sage Park Road.

Organization/Business/Group Name:

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (d) _____ **(e)** _____

Email Address: _____

Description of Entry: (include information regarding # of vehicles, people, animals, music, etc.)

We are encouraging groups to create entries for the parade that fit into one of the following periods of time in Windsor's history. There may be more than one float/marching unit/entry per era, depicting Windsor in that time period. When planning the parade order, these entries will be scheduled to appear in chronological order, creating a timeline of Windsor's 375 years throughout the parade. Join in the fun! Need ideas? We can help! Call 285-1835.

If your group is interested in participating in our "historical timeline," place a check next to the era you would like to re-create for the parade.

_____ Founding and Settlement Years (1600-1700)

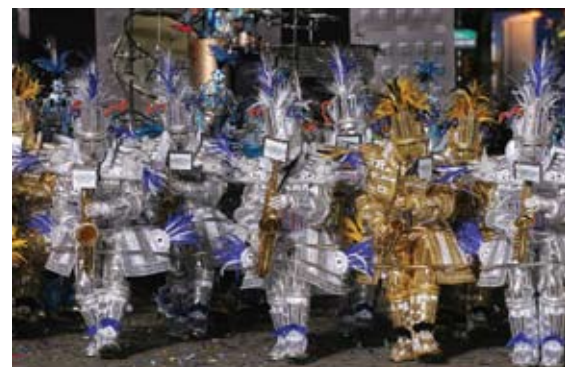
_____ Revolutionary Period (1700's)

_____ Civil War Period (1800's)

_____ 1900's - 1940's

_____ 1950's - 1990's

Mail your completed application to:
Windsor 375 Parade
P.O. Box 1067
Windsor, CT 06095



(continued from page 13)

it the law of the town.

1995 John Mason statue brought back to Windsor and placed on the Palisado Green from New London where it was originally dedicated in 1889.

1998 Windsor House Hotel opened in the 1880's and used through 1996 as the Windsor House Restaurant was replaced by the CVS Pharmacy.

1999 Fyler House renamed the Strong House after historical data showed that the Strongs bought property without a dwelling on it and built the home still standing.

2000's

2001 Huntington House (built in 1904) restored by Dan & Alice Ferraina and opened as an Art Center on the town green.

2002 Windsor High School second renovation completed

2006 Windsor Public Library restoration finished.

2007 There are now 10,498 dwellings in town (including condominiums)

2008 Windsor plans year-long celebration of their 375th birthday with periodical in the Hayden Station Fire Company Telephone Book, 'Windsor' book authored by Windsor Historical Society, 'Windsoropoly', Gala, Jesters' play "Arsenic and Old Lace", commemorative coin and finalizing the year with a parade and fireworks.

Left: The Woodland String Band from Philadelphia will join the 375th anniversary parade September 27.

Windsor Art Center at the Freight House



Archer Memorial Choir performed at the Windsor Art Center First Thursday, December 6, 2007



Windsor Art Center at the Freight House 40 Mechanic Street in downtown Windsor (just behind CVS on Rte. 159 and over the train tracks to the right)

The Windsor Art Center is a place for the visual and performing arts located at the Freight House, 40 Mechanic Street in downtown just over the railroad tracks.

The Center is a new project initiated by local citizens who are interested in securing a greater presence for the arts in Windsor. Their goal is to showcase not only local artists, artisans, actors and musicians but also to reach beyond the immediate area to engage what is new and exciting in the arts outside Windsor's borders. The Center invites your participation as viewer, event attendee or volunteer. Help us make Windsor a place where art can be seen, heard and enjoyed.

For information on what is happening at the Windsor Art Center call 688-2528 or visit www.windsorartcenter.org.



Above: Artist, Jan Dagenhart doing a water color demo as part of the Local Color Show. Below: Lis-el Crowley, owner of Art & Soul Gallery, demonstrates jewelry making as part of the Women Artists Collective show.



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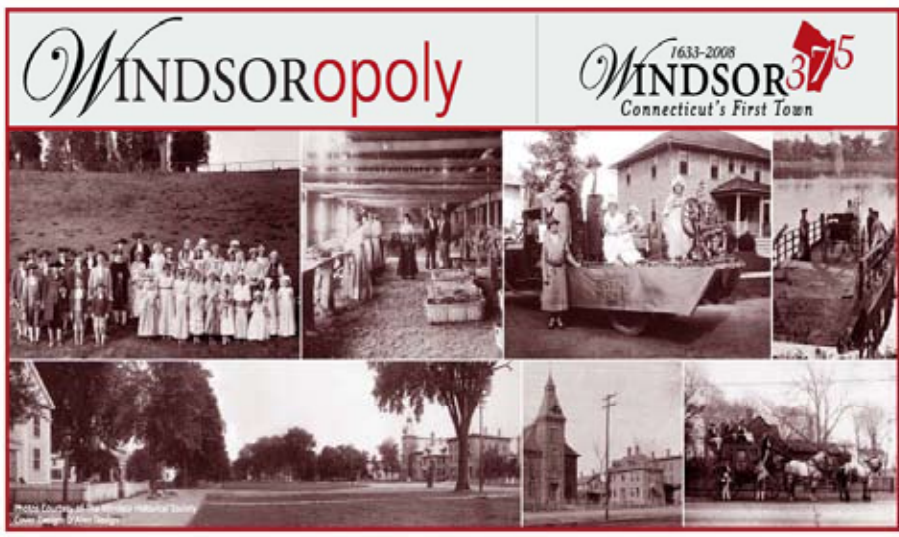
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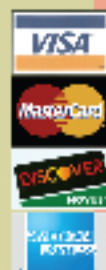
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