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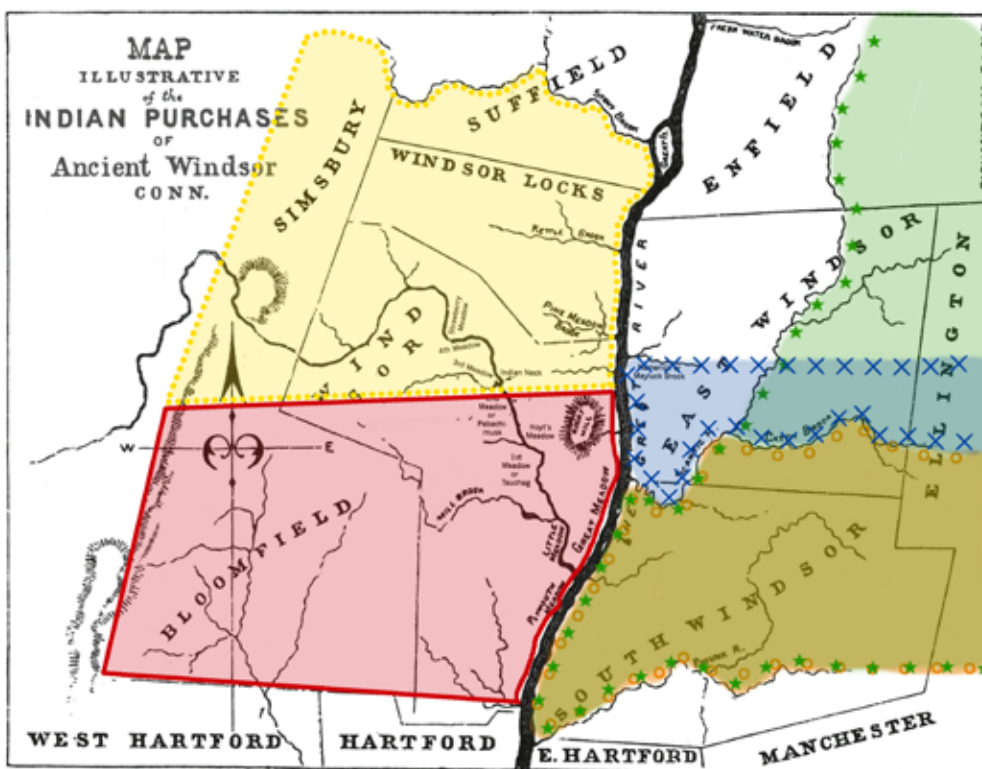
Listening to the Silence: A Close Reading of Encounters with Windsor's Native People

By Anne C. Wheeler, PhD

Anne is an assistant professor of composition/
rhetoric and writing program director at
Springfield College.

The statement that the town of Windsor was founded in 1633 typically conjures up images of colonists, the emigrants from Dorchester, MA staking their claim in the new world and constructing a small but important part of the American landscape. This makes sense because, as the saying goes, history is told by the victors. Or in the case of New England's early settlers and its native populations, perhaps history is told by the survivors. That winter and spring, a virulent strain of smallpox swept through the Connecticut River Valley, finding among its victims both sides of the soon-to-be-fought Pequot War. In an entry in his journal, Plymouth, MA colony governor William Bradford discusses the Windsor Indians' "1,000 enemies" (the Pequots), a "stout" people succumbing to the disease while "inclosed in their fort." The disease also ravaged the Windsor Indians themselves (likely the Poquonocks, Podunks, and other loosely related tribes). Bradford's description is vivid and graphic:

The condition of this people was lamentable, and they fell downe so generally of this disease, as they were (in ye end) not able to help on another: no, not to make a fire, nor to



Map showing the (occasionally fuzzy) boundaries of select early land transactions between Windsor Indians and the English settlers. Map courtesy of Henry R. Stiles, edited by Michelle Tom.

Map Key (lines are approximate)

- 1633 – Sequassen & Nattawanut to Plymouth Co.
- o o o o 1636 – 11 Indians to Dorchester Co.
- y y y y c1638 – Tehano to Windsor
- * * * * 1671 – "Will" Nearowanocke to Windsor
- x x x x before 1687 – Nassahegan to Windsor

fetch a little water to drinke, nor any to burie ye dead; but would strivie as long as they could, and when they could procure no other means to make fire, they would burne ye woden trayses & dishes they ate their meate in, and their very bowes and arrows; & some would crawl out on all foure to gett a little water and sometimes dye by ye way.

It's worth lingering on the winter and spring of 1633-34 because doing so provides insight into the area that

would become Windsor just before it became the focal point of a complex struggle between the Dutch, English, Pequot, and the River Indians (an umbrella name for the many small tribes living along the central part of the Connecticut River). In his 1900 volume on Windsor history, *Historical Sketches*, Jabez H. Hayden speculates on why the land was so "free" when the early white settlers moved into the

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Windsor Historical Society invites people to connect with Windsor's evolving history by preserving, interpreting, and sharing our community's artifacts and stories.

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**Destruction & Survival:
The 1979 Tornado**

October 3, 1979. Jimmy Carter was president. Ella Grasso was governor. Albert Ilg was Windsor's town manager and Warren P. Johnson was mayor. It was a time before cell phones and the internet. Shortly before 3 PM, an F4 tornado struck the Poquonock section of Windsor, Windsor Locks, and parts of Suffield without warning. Many will never forget that day.

Windsor Historical Society and WIN-TV are collaborating on a documentary to be held October 3 at 7 PM at Poquonock School. We have interviewed close to forty people who experienced the tornado and its aftermath. Out of their recollections comes a story of surviving nature's worst, of people coming together to pick up the pieces, rebuilding lives, and neighborhoods.

It was an early release day for elementary school students; blessedly, most were already at home. But many middle and high school students were just getting off school buses when the tornado struck. What was it like to be walking home from school and get caught in an F4 tornado? What was it like to be sucked out of your home and set down in a neighbor's yard? How did Windsor's leaders wrap their arms around the scope of the disaster and plan recovery efforts? And what was it like to lose your mother who wouldn't be there for your high school graduation, your wedding, or the births of your children?

You'll hear from Poquonock Fire Chief John Silliman about the training he put to use in leading rescue and recovery efforts. You'll hear about the meeting Town Manager Al Ilg called that lasted into the wee hours of the night following the tornado, where

town officials and town residents came together to brainstorm ideas for recovery. Many recall Governor Ella Grasso's presence and kindnesses, as well as the help provided by the National Guard, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Mennonite workers, and neighbors and friends in the days, weeks, and months that followed.

Town taxes are based on assessments made October 1. Many homeowners in Poquonock had been assessed on homes that were no longer habitable on the evening of October 3rd. How would the town respond? Surviving photographs paint a picture of streets of wrecked homes, and sometimes just house foundations swept clean of papers and belongings. Lacking insurance papers or family photographs documenting homes before the loss, how could losses be proven? And how did the town work to make victims aware of FEMA and town services, loans, and grants available?

Out of forty interviews, what's emerged is a portrait of a community pulling together to help those in need. We have been struck by the fortitude and resilience of the tornado victims. Most of them talk about lasting effects, the most common of which is caution when storms arrive. For some, possessions are treasured because the tornado swept away so much of their past. For others, losing material goods made them more aware of non-material things of life: family, friends, faith.

One of history's superpowers is its capacity to carry us across time so we can walk in another person's shoes, if only for a moment or two. Come be with us at Poquonock School at 7 PM on October 3rd to pay tribute to a day of destruction in Windsor's history, and learn how our town and its people survived it.

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area. Referencing evidence that the native people had once cultivated a thousand acres of crops in the area that would become Windsor Locks, he asks, "But where were the Indian cultivators when the whites came?" For Hayden, the answer to this question was "pestilence" and not the "whites" who brought the pestilence. It's safe to assume then that the smallpox outbreak of 1633-34 was not the first such incident in the Connecticut River Valley. While Roger Ludlow, leader of the Dorchester group, observed that the area was "entirely void of inhabitants," this emptiness was not the result of unused or unclaimed land as much as inadvertent and unchecked biological warfare.

Although white settlers did not understand their role in transmitting the epidemic to the valley, Bradford's journal indicates an awareness that they were not afflicted. He writes, "The cheef Sachem him selfe now dyed, & allmost all his freind & kinred. But by ye marvelous goodnes & providens of God not one of the English was so much as sicke." This passage is significant because it reveals a conceptualization of a God that offered particular mercies to a chosen group, but more than that, the chief sachem's death set off a chain of events that would profoundly affect the development of Windsor.

This sachem was named Sheat (or Sehat), and he was succeeded by both his son Coggerynosset and his nephew Nassahegan (or Nassacowen). The two cousins practiced a joint sovereignty that lasted at least 45 years and played a clear role in shaping the town. As Coggerynosset explained in an undated deposition, Nassahegan "was so taken in his love of the white man that he gave them certain lands for some small matter." A review of the early Windsor land records reveals that Nassahegan deeded or sold land to English settlers in 1635, 1642, 1662, 1665, and 1666.

Because the land deeds do not, unfortunately, reveal the motives behind the transactions, this might

be regarded as the wanton disposal of his ancestral lands. But there are enough details in the records to allow for speculation of several potential explanations.

Prior to 1633, delegations of River Indians trekked over 100 miles to the Plymouth Colony in order to recruit settlers to their area. As Windsor historian Henry R. Stiles explains, "They had heard that the white men with their guns were invincible, and hoped that under such protection the Pequots would no longer oppose them."

Because the Poquonocks and their affiliated tribes saw the English as a sort of salvation against a more immediate threat, it would stand to reason that Nassahegan would use the deeding of land as a means of securing a permanent English presence.

Further, in 1642, four years after the end of the Pequot War, Nassahegan deeded a large parcel of land to the "hero" of the war, Major John Mason. Why? The Pequot War, in short, was the result of complex relationships between the dominant Pequot tribe and the River Indians, as well as between the English and the Dutch. Through an early alliance with the Dutch, the Pequots maintained control of the region. This control began to unfurl as the River Indians developed alliances with the English, and came to a head in a series of battles. The Pequots, whose population at that point had already been cut in half due to smallpox, were unable to recover from Major Mason's dawn attack on Mystik Fort, or from the subsequent skirmishes that followed. Given that the Pequot War, replete with genocide under Mason's command, effectively ended the Pequot threat in the Windsor area, it's possible to see the 1642 land transaction in particular as a form of tribute or payment to Mason. The rest of the land transactions, and the "small matter" Nassahegan accepted in exchange, might be seen as an extension of this early relationship.

However, bearing in mind the fact that the English settlers believed that the land surrounding the Connecticut River was more or less deserted and uncultivated when they arrived, there is an alternate explanation for Nassahegan's seemingly extreme divestment of land.

In a brief footnote, Stiles acknowledges that it was "a common practice to 'buy off' when an Indian appeared to lay claim to the land." Land ownership, as we now understand it, was not a concept that existed in the Connecticut River Valley prior to the arrival of European settlers. Retrospective newspaper headlines like "Windsor's price was corn and blankets" are reflective of a historical memory that sees white settlers as clever or malicious (depending on one's point of view), obtaining Indian land for pittance. However, according to historian and former WHS director Robert Silliman, the land transactions between settlers and Indians were "the result of an exchange between two cultures that had utterly different values, goals, and beliefs." For Nassahegan and his predecessors, land ownership was an alien concept. Another Plymouth governor, Edward Winslow, noted that "every Sachem knoweth how far the bounds and limits of his own country extendeth." Land wasn't owned, it was used. Nassahegan may have seen himself as offering privileges of *use* to allies who had successfully vanquished the Pequots. Given the contrast between these ideologies, it's possible that Nassahegan would have granted his allies use of his lands while still feeling that his sovereignty over them was intact.

In considering the settling of Windsor, we might do so in a way that moves beyond the narrative of a group of stalwart English emigrants. Rather, we might listen to the silences and read between the lines to imagine a region whose inhabitants, the River Indians, followed certain patterns of land use for many centuries. These patterns of use were deeply and permanently interrupted by disease. The smallpox

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epidemics not only killed thousands of people, they disrupted generational structures and changed the world around the Native people who survived, as well as how the young and old interacted with that new world. Additionally, preexisting tensions between tribes were amplified by the influx of alliances and materials.

The English nearly destroyed the Pequots. In gratitude, the River Indians unintentionally traded and deeded land in such a way as to allow the white settlers to construct permanent material and ideological structures in the absence left by the epidemiological decimation of the Native population.

Footnotes for all articles in this newsletter will be available on our website, windsorhistoricalsociety.org

I-91 and I-291: Windsor's Battle Over Highway Expansion

*by John Mooney,
Educator & Outreach Manager*

For decades, Interstate 91 has stood as the most prominent roadway in Windsor, splitting the town vertically since its initial opening as the Veteran's Highway in the late 1950s. By 1961, the highway had been rebranded as part of I-91, the majority of which was in planning stages or under construction in numerous locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. But as early as 1964, although the road was merely eight years old, its four-lane design was already proving insufficient for ever increasing commuter traffic. Despite this early recognition, it took nearly thirty years before the state completed an expansion of I-91 in Windsor. In the interim a long and heated debate raged between Windsor citizens and the state over highway construction and expansion within the town.

By the mid-1960s, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) was planning an expansion of I-91 north of Hartford, along with a future ring road around the city dubbed I-291 that would cut through the Wilson neighborhood of Windsor. In 1964 state officials met with residents to present the planned layout of the highways and allow local property owners to make arrangements if affected. State representative Victor Tudan insisted that the "highway plans are made and will not be altered," but



Construction underway along I-91 and the Bloomfield Avenue overpass in 1990. HOV lanes and their associated on/off ramps, which were added between the already existing highway lanes, were one of the most contentious elements of the I-91 expansion plan. | WHS collections 1992.42.R35-24A. Photo by Adelbert Coe.

despite this confidence, talks dragged on and tensions grew for many more years as the state reconceived I-291 as a smaller expressway that would connect I-91 in Windsor to Route 5 and I-84 on the other side of the Connecticut River, and continued to evaluate various plans for I-91 and other possible traffic solutions.

During the 1970s, public resistance to new highway construction grew throughout the nation and the situation in Windsor was no exception. In August of 1970 a crowd of about 100 Windsor residents, along with Windsor Mayor Milo Peck, gathered to protest the expansion of I-91 at Hartford City Hall, where a public hearing on the expansion plans was taking place. They criticized the lack of mass transit in transportation planning, the perceived negative effect that easy

access to other towns would have on local businesses, and the isolation of Windsor's Wilson neighborhood, which would be cut off from the rest of the town by the highways.

The debate continued through the 1970s and into the 1980s. Windsor residents formed multiple advocacy groups to formally object to the highway expansion plans. One group, People Against Highway Expansion in Windsor, filed a claim that the plans violated the Civil Rights Act by forcing "a disproportionate number of persons from protected classes – such as minorities, elderly, handicapped, and low income – to relocate." Two other groups, Action-Save Connecticut's Oldest Town (ASCOT) and Families for Windsor, appealed to Windsor's Town Council to hold a vote on the matter of taking legal action against

the state. An initial special vote drew unexpectedly large crowds, but failed to gather the requisite support for a lawsuit. A later public petition led to a town wide referendum, where residents succeeded in persuading the town leadership to promise to negotiate with the state, but also file a lawsuit if necessary.

Negotiations between the town and the state DOT proceeded into 1985 with the town asking for two major concessions in the highway plans: the elimination of I-91 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and a change in the proposed layout of I-291 from an elevated expressway down to a smaller-scale highway at street level. Discussions soon broke down, with the DOT arguing that the removal of HOV lanes would require “vast redesign work” and that a major reduction in the design for I-291 would jeopardize federal funding for the project. In March of 1985 the Windsor Town Council unanimously voted to sue the state DOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the federal DOT in order to obtain design changes for the highway projects.

Windsor’s lawsuit against state and federal transportation agencies proved short-lived. The town filed an injunction on I-91 construction, but the judge overseeing the case delayed ruling on the injunction, allowing the state to proceed with the first phase of expansion from the Massachusetts state line through East Windsor. In August of 1985 CT U.S. Congresswomen, Barbara B. Kennelly and Nancy L. Johnson, presented the Windsor Town Council and the transportation department with a plan for a negotiated settlement, which included assurances of state assistance to negate negative impacts of construction and a reduction in the proposed height of I-291. However, for many highway expansion opponents it did not adequately address their deepest concerns about the HOV lanes and overall scale of I-291. Despite vocal criticism of the compromise from some elements of the public, on October 15, 1985 Windsor Town

Manager Albert G. Ilg signed a legal agreement between the town and DOT that effectively ended Windsor’s lawsuit.

The final settlement provided Windsor with a choice for the design of I-291: either keep the state’s original plans of an elevated expressway, dubbed Alternate A, or adopt a new layout for a lowered I-291 with its east and west lanes surrounding both sides of the already existing Putnam Memorial Highway and “a complex system of bridges, ramps, and intersections” providing access to local roads and I-91, dubbed Alternate B. Opponents of the original I-291 plan were also frustrated by the apparent shortcomings of Alternate B, which many perceived as a method of coercing the town to accept the original elevated expressway design. Some citizens even questioned the legality of retaining the original highway design after voters had authorized the town to pursue a lawsuit in order to alter that very design. With two consulting engineers and the town planner, Mario Zavarella, heavily criticizing Alternate B, the Town Council voted 6-3 in favor of Alternate A, essentially allowing the state DOT to preserve its initial plans for I-291.

Even as construction on I-91 and I-291 began in the late 1980s, elements of public resistance were still present in Windsor. In June of 1988 a group of 25 protestors gathered at the Hartford home of U.S. Rep Barbara B. Kennelly and the Governor’s Mansion, hoping to garner political support against I-291. Later that month, under pressure from several different regional organizations such as the Human Rights and Environmental Coalition Against I-291 and the Greater Hartford NAACP, Windsor’s Town Council asked members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation to investigate restricting federal funding for the construction of I-291 until state and federal transportation agencies addressed concerns about civil rights violations against Wilson residents due to highway construction infringing on their properties and neighborhood.

The congressional representatives all declined the request, citing Windsor’s earlier legal settlement, issues of legality regarding the interruption of federal funding, and the imminent start of construction.

By the early 1990s the expansion of I-91 had been finished and on September 22, 1994 I-291 opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony held by the CT DOT and a parade featuring town officials from South Windsor, Manchester, and East Hartford. The *Hartford Courant’s* reporting on the event did not mention Windsor representatives being present for the opening.

Despite a decades-long battle against highway construction, opponents had merely managed to postpone the state’s plans. While their efforts may have failed in the end, the protests by local advocacy groups and the associated lawsuit exemplify the growth of public resistance to highway expansion that took place in the 1970s and 1980s. Today there is a popular perception that the largescale transportation projects of the 20th century divided and damaged many communities throughout the country. It has been 25 years since the completion of Windsor’s last major highway projects and perhaps only the town’s longtime residents can truly account for what effects they have had on the community at large.

If you love the work we do, please talk with your legal and financial advisors about leaving us a gift in your estate plan such as a bequest of cash or securities in your will.

What your legal and financial advisors will need to know:

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Address: 96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor CT 06095

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Windsor Founders: Frances Clark Dewey Phelps

By Kristen Wands, Curator

Frances Clark Dewey Phelps is one of the few women included on the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor's founders list, which only includes heads of household. As yet, her maiden name and the name of her first husband have not been determined, so her origin story is murky.

As was true of most Windsor founders, Frances settled in Dorchester before arriving in Windsor at some point prior to her second marriage. Many genealogists believe that her first marriage was to a Clark because her second husband's estate documents mentioned a daughter, Mary Clark, whose age at that time indicates she would have been born about 1636. Earlier genealogists believed Joseph Clark (another Windsor founder) was a likely candidate as her first husband, but we know that his wife died in 1639, and he did not pass away until 1641, several years after our Frances's second marriage. The records of Dorchester and Windsor are littered with mentions of various other Clark men, many of whom appear only once in land records or passenger lists and never again. Details are scarce and it is impossible to say which one might have been Frances's first husband.

Frances's second marriage occurred under dramatic, challenging circumstances. We know from Windsor founder and documentarian Matthew Grant's record that a great flood, which inundated many houses in the new settlement, began on March 5, 1638/9. On March 14th, "2 youths drwned being in a conno one ye flood gathring up of palles swimming on ye flood against Thomas Deweys hows." Nonetheless, just eight short days later, Frances and Thomas Dewey were married. As Grant wrote, "One ye 22 day at night [the flood] was well fallen & yet it was as hoye as ye hoyest flood we had knowen before." The floodwaters may have begun to recede, but Windsor's recovery from this natural disaster had only just



Flooding at the end of North Meadow Road in April 2019. Frances would have experienced an even higher flood in 1638/9 | WHS collections 2019.16.21. Photo by Michelle Tom.

begun. One wonders where Frances and Thomas spent their wedding night, considering his house had recently flooded. Their marriage would have commenced with grief over the loss of their two neighbor boys' lives, a move to higher ground, and the tremendous work it would take the entire community to rebuild all that the flood waters had swept away.

Women in Frances's era rarely show up in official records, but their circumstances can be partially deduced from their husband's records. Thomas's estate documents prove that the couple thrived in their marriage, in spite of its inauspicious beginnings. Together, Frances and Thomas had five children: Thomas, Josiah, Anna, Israel, and Jedediah, all born between 1639/40 and 1647. Thomas appears to have been a farmer, with 12 acres of corn planted at the time of his death. He also owned oxen, horses, cows, pigs, and bees. He died in April of 1648, following ten years of marriage to Frances. His estate inventory totaled £213, with £118 of that being real estate including a

house, barn, and homelot of just over an acre, plus significant landholdings elsewhere, mostly in the Great Meadow (land between the Palisado and the Connecticut River). Frances's life can be glimpsed through this inventory. She would have spun the hemp and flax it lists, prepared meals in the brass and iron kettles, and ridden upon the pillion behind Thomas's saddle. She would have been proud of the trappings of success which furnished their home. They owned pewter, a chest, a box, tables, and a "cubberd."

In November of 1648, roughly seven months after Dewey's death, Frances married again. This time, she wed George Phelps. He was also a farmer, a prosperous one, who had been married previously to Philura Randall. Philura had died just two days after Thomas Dewey on April 29, 1648, so it is fitting that George and Frances, both newly widowed, married each other. Maintaining a household and livelihood in 17th-century New England was hard work. Nothing was mechanized, everything had to

be done by hand, and it was nearly impossible to manage the physically demanding domestic chores, the raising of many young children, and the labor of maintaining fields and livestock, alone. Therefore, people typically remarried very quickly, usually within months of a spouse's death. George had five children from his first marriage, who were followed by three more sons, Jacob, John, and Nathaniel, born to Frances between 1649/50 and 1654.

At some point before 1672, Frances and her family moved to Westfield, Massachusetts. George is listed on deeds there as early as 1667, the same year he and another man were tasked with laying out a highway through the settlement. Was Frances excited about the prospects ahead of them in this new community? Did she dread the challenges of settling yet another new town? We'll never know how she felt, but we do know that Frances and George's hard work paid off. By the time of his death on May 8, 1687, he estimated his landholdings in Westfield at 80 acres, and he also retained some Windsor landholdings.

In his will, George spoke lovingly of Frances, conveying his respect for her opinions and his hope that their children would take good care of her. In flowery language unusual for a will at this time, he wrote,

Concerning my Dear wife, I exhort my children to be careful & tender of her, Loving & dutiful towards her in all things, that she want nothing that may be necessary to her comfortable subsistence to hearken & attend to her Counsel from time to time.

George gave her control of a wing of their house in Westfield, a home she would share with her son Jacob. He also left her his bedding and other possessions. These considerations, along with the cash, grain, farmland, and the share in the orchard George allotted, would have provided for her comfortable existence for the rest of her life. In 1672, when Jacob married Dorothy Ingersoll, Frances would have had to adjust to having a new mistress in charge of her house, but she might have also welcomed the help with household chores, particularly in her later years. Dorothy and the grandchildren would have

cared for Frances at the end of her life, after Jacob passed away in 1689. Frances herself passed away in Westfield on September 27, 1690. She must have been about 80 years of age. Before her death, she would have witnessed the births of six grandchildren, born to Jacob and Dorothy during her lifetime in the home they all shared. She would have seen her other children grow up, marry, have children, and become prosperous. Some followed her and George to Westfield, others settled Lebanon and Northampton, some stayed in Windsor. Through her perseverance, she helped to settle Windsor, building a community here that thrives to this day. She also settled Westfield, another thriving New England community. Though Frances outlived several of them, her children all seem to have survived to marriageable age, which must have resulted in thousands of ancestors who are alive today. From her uncertain beginning aboard whatever ship brought her to New England, Frances survived, thrived, and provided a solid foundation for later generations of Americans to build upon.

Many thanks to our volunteers

We are so grateful to all our volunteers. Between our volunteers, staff, and donors, we are able to accomplish so much more, and even surprise ourselves!

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Admission is free to browse the museum store, the *450 Years of Windsor Stories* galleries, and the Hands-On-History Learning Center.

Wednesdays - Saturdays
11 AM - 4:00 PM
closed on major holidays

Tours of Historic Houses
11 AM & 1 PM

Tours & Library Admission
\$8 Adults
\$6 Seniors & Students
FREE for children under 12
and WHS members

Can't make it to the Society in person? For in-depth research resources, check out our website, windsorhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming events

For more information contact the Society at 860-688-3813 or info@windsorhistoricalsociety.org. Visit our website and pay for events online: windsorhistoricalsociety.org/events

September 18, 6:30 PM to 8 PM
ABCs of Genealogy with Dave Robison

Researching your family? Are you looking in all the right places? Genealogy research can be rewarding and frustrating at the same time. Knowing where to look (it's NOT all on the internet!) can make your adventure more rewarding and less of a major task. In the 3rd and final session we'll discuss websites both free and fee-based, libraries, archives, court houses, and many other resources. We will also cover different types of documents and what they can tell us: vital records (birth, marriage, death), pension records, land records, immigration and naturalization records. We'll also talk about some very common pitfalls that can easily lead anyone "down the rabbit hole!" We will learn effective online research strategies that could save you time.

\$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 WHS members

September 19, 7 PM to 8 PM
What to Do with the Stuff the Kids Don't Want

Many seniors and their adult children face this dilemma. Come for a session with James Selig of James Selig Estate Jewelry and Antiques and discover some solutions that might work for you.

\$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 WHS members

September 22, 1 PM to 4 PM
Antiques Appraisal Day

Enjoy an Antiques Road Show-type event. Experts associated with Nadeau's Appraisals and James Selig Estate Jewelry and Antiques and their colleagues appraise manuscripts and paper goods, clothing and textiles,

furniture, glass and ceramics, metal goods, toys, and jewelry.

\$5 per artifact, five artifacts per person

October 3, 7 PM to 9 PM
Windsor Phoenix: Remembering the 1979 Tornado

Windsor Historical Society and WIN-TV's staff have recorded forty interviews and pored through photographs and documents resulting in this documentary premiering at Poquonock School, command center for rescue and recovery operations in 1979. Learn how Windsor recovered from a terrible day in its history from people who were there.
At Poquonock School.

\$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 WHS members and WIN-TV affiliated

October 10, November 7, December 5, 5:30 PM to 7 PM
Genealogy Support Group

Just starting out? Experienced but stumped? Want access to Ancestry.com? Join others for discussion and problem-solving. Feel free to bring your laptop.

Free

October 19, 12 PM to 4 PM
3rd Annual Great Windsor History Hunt

Pick up clues book at the Society, find historic sites, snap a picture on your cell phone. Return to the Society to get photos checked and win prizes. Refreshments and prizes awarded from 3:30 – 4PM. For all ages; families encouraged.

\$10 per carload, \$5 per individual

November 2, 1 PM to 4 PM
Grand Opening: Chaffee House Hands-On Doctor's Office

Enjoy refreshments and be happy that modern medicine has evolved since the late-18th century! How would Dr. Chaffee have treated a fever? A

broken bone? Check out Dr. Chaffee's apothecary chest and medical texts, and mix up some remedies. Talk with Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking artists who produced the furnishings, and at 2:00 PM, hear more about diseases and treatments of Dr. Chaffee's time from Dr. Al McKee.

Free

November 9, 11 AM to 4 PM
Hearth Cooking Class: Pies and Puddings for the Holidays with Becky Hendricks

Choose between pumpkin, onion, apple, and cranberry pies and Marlborough and bread puddings. Prepare pies and puddings in the Strong-Howard House's keeping room under Becky's expert tutelage, then sample and/or take home.

Limited to 6 participants. \$25

November 23, 6 PM to 9 PM
Festive Pre-Holiday Auction and Dinner

Provides the perfect opportunity to find great holiday gifts and getaways for someone you love, sponsor free admission to the Society, or make the holidays special for a Windsor family in need! Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 on auction night, and cover a delicious buffet dinner, beer, and wine. **At the Lodge on Deerfield Road.**

December 6, 6 PM to 8 PM
Colonial Drinks

Ever hear of flip? Syllabub? Society staffers will briefly regale you with the origins of these concoctions. Then sample them at the drink stations, including one at our historic Strong-Howard House, and indulge in some tavern games. Recipes provided.

21-and-over. \$15 adults, \$14 WHS members

