



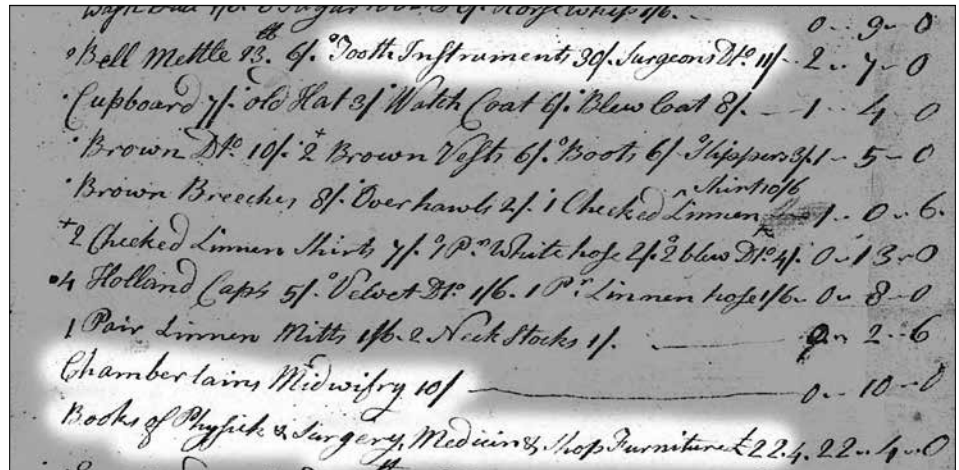
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Dr. Primus Manumit, Windsor's First Black Doctor

By Iniya Raja, Volunteer
South Windsor High School Student

The service of a doctor requires skill, understanding, patience, and knowledge. To become one after being torn from your family and forced into servitude for a man you know nothing of, in an era when this is an ordinary practice, makes the already arduous feat exceptional. In the late 18th century, after years of enslavement Dr. Primus Manumit became Windsor's first Black doctor. Moreover, through his talent and hard work, he became well respected among even the most distinguished members of his community.

Documentation on Dr. Manumit's life is severely limited, and any rare accounts begin only during his adult life. Enslaved to prominent Windsor physician Dr. Alexander Wolcott, Primus traveled alongside Dr. Wolcott on medical drives in and around surrounding towns. He nursed the sick, served as an "escort and body-guard



Detail from Dr. Primus Manumit's 1782 probate record showing medical tools and books in his estate inventory | Courtesy of Ancestry.com

in his [Wolcott's] visits... to numerous patients, and as an assistant in the preparation of medicines," according to Windsor historian Henry Stiles.

Primus resided at the Wolcott house on the north end of Broad Street in the center of town, where he was given full access to their extensive library containing both English and Latin books. A keen mind and curious soul, he took full advantage of these opportunities, and learned to read and write in English as well as Latin. Stiles quotes a historic source that suggests that at some point it simply "occurred"

to Dr. Wolcott that Primus should be freed after years of faithful assistance. However, records suggest that he served in the French and Indian War and/or the Revolutionary War, and thereby earned his own release from bondage.

As a freed man, Primus selected the surname Manumit (Latin for manumission, or release from slavery), a choice that represents the importance liberty undoubtedly held for him. With this newfound freedom, he moved across the Connecticut River to East Windsor (in what is now South Windsor), and by 1778 he had

(continued on page 4)

Stepping Into The Next Century Together – a new plan for a new century!

Wonky, but important. As we enter our second hundred years, it's imperative to be clear about our direction – both for ourselves and for the community. In February, the Society's Board adopted a new strategic plan for 2021-24, aptly titled **“Stepping Into the Next Century Together.”** The plan represents months of hard work by our wonderful Strategic Planning Committee (see list on page 13) and involves input from over 250 members, Windsor residents, and community leaders.

Three key strategy statements form the plan's main idea. Like the north-seeking compass arrow, they point our way forward as we aspire to:

+ Be first in our region to center our history and culture on the lives of racially and ethnically diverse members of our community.

To achieve this, we will ensure that:

+ Our work is rooted in the history, stories, and voices of all community members.

+ We will build our core competence in diversity, equity, and inclusion, aligning processes, systems, and structures with this vision.

This new plan also includes the Inclusion Action Plan goals adopted in January. Our dedicated Inclusion Team (see list on page 13) examined a number of difficult questions about the Society, its history, diversity, and inclusion, and

crafted a plan to address these issues across the entire organization (see panel below). Inclusion Action Plan goals address the areas of leadership, organizational culture, recruitment, communications, and policies. The two plans are now one and unify our effort to make WHS a more inclusive organization.

The new strategic plan includes a number of specific goals, such as forming an ongoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force; developing a more diverse board and staff; and ensuring that our programs and events “walk the talk” by focusing on the needs and interests of Windsor's diverse community, to cite some key examples. A summary of the plan is available on the Society's website – check it out – you'll be seeing more about these plans in the months ahead!

Throughout 2020, the Society's Inclusion Team, made up of Board, staff, and community volunteers, developed an Inclusion Action Plan, which begins with the following statement:

Windsor's residents—past, present, and future—are the holders and tellers of their experiences, their truths, their values, and their town.

Through our intentional and deliberate self-reflection as an organization and as holders of privilege, we seek to acknowledge the exclusion

of black and brown narratives and stories, and to ensure the inclusion of racially and ethnically diverse individuals across board, organizational, and programmatic levels going forward.

Ongoing education around diversity, equity, and inclusion, professional development, and interpersonal growth are at the forefront for all of us at the Windsor Historical Society as we begin our second century.

Windsor Historical Society, in partnership with the Windsor

community, will learn its full and complete story, both as an organization and as a resource. We are also dedicated to unearthing the stories of all Windsor's people, especially people of color, and sharing these stories in ways that are mindful of the needs of our community.

We will lead initiatives to curate artifacts of historical, cultural, and ancestral value and we will love with a deference for difference of identity in the many ways it presents itself.



Doug Shipman
Executive Director

So, where is this all heading?

You may be wondering – with a new strategic plan, a powerfully worded inclusion action plan, and a new focus – where is this all heading? What does this all mean for Windsor Historical Society? I'm so glad you asked!

First, what it does not mean: This does not mean that WHS will stop serving as the region's premier center for Windsor history, research, and genealogy.

What it does mean: We owe an enormous debt to our forward-thinking founders who sought to preserve elements of Windsor's past for future generations and set aside financial resources to ensure that this legacy endured. Our new direction would not be possible without the hard work, support, and love of Windsor's history that each of them, and you, have shown over past years. Our new edifice will be built upon the strong foundation established by our founders, donors, members, board leaders, and visionary executive directors Bob Silliman and Christine Ermenc.

Our mission has not changed. By aspiring to "be first in our region to center our history and culture on the lives of racially and ethnically diverse members

of our community," we are acknowledging that we have much work to do to truly fulfill our mission of "inviting people to connect with Windsor's evolving history." We understand that not everyone in Windsor felt that *they* were invited or included in this history. We understand that the parade of white faces, photos, historic homes, and objects, did not reflect our town's *whole* history, and that many felt excluded and written out of the narrative. We will now re-double our efforts to be the premier historical organization for ***all*** of Windsor's residents.

How will we do this? You may have noticed that we have already begun. Some examples include our new webpage featuring Windsor's Black History, our new bookstore offerings featuring history of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx history, and new programs encouraging people to consider ways to "do history" more inclusively. This is just the beginning. We realize there is still a long way to go.

In the coming months, as we celebrate our own centennial, we aspire to make this a celebration of the entire Windsor community. Beginning with our June annual meeting and program, you will be invited to experience a slightly different interpretation of the Hezekiah Chaffee House with old spaces being used in new ways. As our September 1 anniversary date approaches, you will be invited to a new exhibit in our changing gallery that will

showcase the Society's first 100 years and point the way to our next century. During the month of September, we plan to bring the celebration to the community with a series of events taking place in different locations throughout Windsor. There will be much more as well – and I hope you will want to be part of it all!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and involvement with the Society and with Windsor's fascinating history! The Society exists for you – as your connection with Windsor's history, and with your own history. Society members like you – past and present – have shaped an amazing first century, and I hope you are ready to step into our next century together!



Our Inclusion Team "zooms" with consultant Jamal Jimerson as it forms our new Inclusion Action Plan.

OUR MISSION

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editorial Advisors:

Doug Shipman, John Mooney,
Michelle Tom, Kristen Wands

Managing Editor: Sue Tait Porcaro

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Agnes Pier, *President*

Bob Bell, Sharon Bellinger, John Berky, Liz Burke, Kathy Carroll, Tom Gorman, Randy Graff, Randy McKenney, Walt Stevenson, Mark Walker, Jim Welsh

OUR STAFF

Terence Bagby, *Facilities Coordinator*

John F. Mooney, *Education & Outreach Manager*

Sue Tait Porcaro, *Office Manager*

Doug Shipman, *Executive Director*

Michelle Tom, *Librarian/Archivist*

Kristen Wands, *Curator*

Visit us

We are currently open to the public with COVID precautions in place.

Admission is free to browse the museum store, the *450 Years of Windsor Stories* galleries, our *Windsor in 1921* Exhibit and Library.

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

Follow us on Facebook for new stories and articles each day!

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



Sir in obedience to your Directions I Present to your honer | the account of the Neseseres of Life I am Now in | Possing of I have the flour that Come out | of two Bushels of Wheat and a Bushel and | half of wheat half a Bushel Promis to doct (?)—Rockwell one Bushel of Ry Promis to—drake | five Bushel of Corn Promis to Capt Aaron Bissell : *totum est* :

dated East windsor July 1 : 1780

Primus manumit

Quantum : Sufficet :

Top: Dr. Alexander Wolcott's house on the north end of Broad St., as it looked at the turn of the 20th century. Primus would have lived here while he was enslaved. | WHS collections 1995.25.19, photo by Katherine Barker Drake, gift of Bruce MacClintic.

Bottom: Transcript of a receipt for supplies that Dr. Manumit provided during the Revolutionary War. Reprinted in The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Vol. I, by Henry R. Stiles

(continued from page 1)

rented a small parcel (three rods by two rods, or 49.5 by 33 feet), which included a two-story Federal-style house on Old Main Street from Benjamin Cook. The details of the lease included that he maintain the house and fences, pay taxes on it, and give Cook three bushels of wheat per year for his stay. This house was located in the East Windsor Hill area, now a historic district. At the time he lived there, Dr. Manumit's elite neighbors included renowned merchants

Capt. Ebenezer Grant, Aaron Bissell, and John Watson.

Capitalizing upon his experience and recognition as an assistant to Dr. Wolcott, Dr. Manumit began practicing medicine on both sides of the Connecticut River. In the late 1700s, his job as a surgeon entailed extracting teeth and performing limited surgery (as opposed to physicians who in that era mainly healed illnesses through herbs and



WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bridging Centuries. Bridging Cultures.

Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Our Mission

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

Our Hope for the Future: Our Vision

Knowledge of local history gives the Windsor community and visitors a connection to the past, an understanding of the present, and a sense of responsibility for the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Continuity, COVID, and Commitment

Living with the COVID-19 pandemic for over a year now, it is hard to recall what we did before March 2020, when “normal” came to a screeching halt. It’s important to remember, however, that most of this reporting year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) took place before the pandemic became a “thing”!

Under Christine Ermenc’s capable leadership, Society programs and events were in full swing, highlighted by some fascinating genealogical programs, the grand opening of Hezekiah Chaffee’s doctor’s office, and the premier of **Windsor Phoenix: Remembering the 1979 Tornado!** Behind the scenes, a year-long search for a new director led to a smooth transition following Christine’s retirement in February, 2020. We are all thankful to have been able to say goodbye to Christine in style (and in-person!) just before the pandemic arrived and “stay safe – stay home” became the byword.

The pandemic was an unexpected disruptor, but also enabled us to move forward on some important new efforts. It was certainly disappointing to begin canceling programs, including our popular House Tour and **Annie’s Home** book launch in my first few days with the Society. While the staff quickly shifted to working from home and providing some great new virtual programming, we were also able to launch our new Inclusion Team and Strategic and Centennial Planning Committee. Both of these groups, whose work was closely interwoven, brought new voices into the discussion of our future, and began making good on the Society’s commitment to become a more inclusive organization.

As the fiscal year ended in June 2020, we experienced a brief taste of normalcy as we re-opened the museum, and many enjoyed our first outdoor “drive-in” annual meeting and Bob Bell’s talk, **Let’s Eat: A History of Dining Out in Windsor.** You all know how the year ended, and so now we look forward to next summer when warmer weather may allow us to come together once again! Until then...

Douglas R. Shipman
Executive Director

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Programs and Services: Bringing History to Life



The WIN-TV/Windsor Historical Society 40th Anniversary commemorative documentary brought over 300 to the Poquonock School for its debut.

While 2020 will long be remembered as the year of the pandemic, 2019 was a year of energy and engagement for Windsor Historical Society! Demonstrating the continuing interest in genealogy, Dave Robison’s three-day workshop on the **ABCs of Genealogy** drew a capacity audience, and our own monthly Genealogy Support Group proved to be helpful therapy to local researchers until temporarily halted in April due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In October, over 300 Windsor residents and fans witnessed the culmination of months of work with 40 volunteer interview subjects and our partners at WIN-TV as we showcased **Windsor Phoenix: Remembering the 1979 Tornado.** Such a large audience demanded a large venue, and we were pleased to premier this documentary at Poquonock School, which served as the command center for rescue and recovery operations in 1979!

Thanks to our many generous donors, the Chaffee House hands-on doctor's office opened in November, fully outfitted with reproductions of the furnishings and equipment that Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee may have had in his original 18th-century office. Just a few months earlier, Gordon Kenneson's popular talk on **The Apothecary's Profession** set the stage for this exciting grand opening, which featured exactly reproduced furniture crafted by the woodworkers at the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted our program year but also provided the opportunity to try out some new ways to engage people in Windsor history. Bob Bell bears the distinction of presenting the very last live program before the governor directed us to close our doors in March with his popular **Trains, Boats, and Bridges** children's program. He also made the very first live presentation when we re-opened in June with **Let's Eat: A History of Dining Out in Windsor**, at our first-ever outdoor (and socially distanced) drive-in Annual Meeting and lecture! Thanks to the pandemic we also began moving programs online, and John Mooney's **Historic Libations** program, presented to dozens of viewers via Facebook Live, closed out the year's public programs and demonstrated our creativity and resilience in the face of challenging conditions.



Executive Director Christine Ermenc retired after nearly 20 years of guiding the historical society with compassion, wisdom, and grace. Photo by Michelle Tom.

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Collections: Preserving and Protecting our Heritage



The 2019-2020 fiscal year was transformative for our museum and archival collections as well. We continued to collect photos and memories of the 1979 tornado that hit Poquonock (to be included in the documentary made in honor of the 40th anniversary of that tragedy) and began collecting materials focused on the upheaval in our day-to-day lives in the year 2020. Realizing the importance of capturing this history as it happened, we started actively soliciting items from Windsor residents on things that were representative of their unique experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter protests, extreme weather events, and election fervor, among everything else that occurred in 2020.

Another significant collection expansion came in the form of digitized scans of our Windsor High School yearbooks. Thanks to contributions of many Windsor families, almost every yearbook from 1951 to 2019 is now available for viewing and downloading on our website. Focusing on schools, Joan Lynch kindly donated our first set of yearbooks from St. Gabriel School, and Ron Perrault contributed minutes from Windsor's Parent-Teacher Association from the 1930s and 40s.

One page from Windsor High School's 1999 Tunxis yearbook | WHS collections

Our museum collections were further enhanced by Milton Porteus' generous donation of the washstand made for Abigail Talcott prior to her marriage to Hezekiah Chaffee, Jr., by craftsman Jeremiah Cleveland. Significantly, both Talcott's and Cleveland's names are inscribed on the washstand. We also continued expanding on the extensive Morgan/Porteus family collection received the previous year, with more family materials and data from Gayle and Fred Alford, generous descendants in another branch of the family.

Sustaining the Society: Cultivating and Allocating Resources

Members and donors – past and present – are the strength of the Society. Over 110 generous supporters helped the Society raise over \$18,000 at our Pre-Holiday Auction and Dinner in November. Just months later dozens responded to the 100th Anniversary Fund drive with donations totaling \$19,000 to support future centennial events. Careful management by our volunteer Finance Committee, Board of Directors, and paid staff, which includes an annual financial audit by Certified Public Accountants at Whittlesey, P.C., ensure sound stewardship of the funds entrusted to the Society by our generous donors and members.



Our annual auction and dinner fundraising event was enjoyed by all as participants shopped for holiday gifts and feasted on a delicious meal from Dom's Broad Street Eatery. Photo by Michelle Tom.

As with many other organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the Society's finances in several ways, but we ended the year in a strong position. The value of endowed funds declined sharply in March as stock market values fell, but by June 30, they had rebounded to levels above the previous year-end. Similarly, pandemic-forced closing of the museum and schools meant no revenue from programs, field-trips, and gift shop sales. This lost revenue was balanced, however, by a forgivable Federal Paycheck Protection Program loan and a Cares Act Grant through CT Humanities, which allowed us to retain all staff throughout the pandemic and close the fiscal year with a small budget surplus.

Looking Ahead to 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

The pandemic continued to cloud the horizon as the fiscal year ended in June 2020. From the vantage of hindsight, we can say that the pandemic's effects endured throughout the next fiscal year as well. Goals for the 2020-21 fiscal year include engaging community members and leadership in crafting a new strategic plan that places "becoming a more inclusive organization" at its core. This important work, begun in early 2020, should conclude by winter and set the Society up for its centennial celebration in fall 2021, and for the exciting beginning of our second century!

STAFF 2019- 2020

Executive Director
Christine Ermenc (retiring)
Douglas R. Shipman (incoming)

Curator of Collections and Interpretation
Kristen Wetzel Wands

Librarian/Archivist
Michelle Tom

Administrative Assistant
Sue Tait Porcaro

Educator and Outreach Manager
John F. Mooney IV

Facilities Coordinators
Terence Bagby
Walt Stevenson

Board of Directors

Ann-Marie Adams
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John Berky
Liz Burke

Kathy Carroll
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Tom Gorman
Randy Graff,
Assistant Treasurer
Randy McKenney

Agnes Pier, President
Walt Stevenson
Mark Walker, Treasurer
Jim Welsh

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Activities year ended June 30, 2020

Change in net assets without donor restrictions

Operating revenues and other support:	
Contributions and grants	\$ 36,209
Fundraising events	16,793
Programs, admissions, and publications	8,628
Interest and dividend income	18,303
Membership	10,700
Store sales	4,859
Net assets released from restrictions	338,266
Total operating revenues and other support	<u>433,758</u>
Operating expenses:	
Program services	260,266
Supporting services	62,281
Fundraising services	67,113
Total operating expenses	<u>389,660</u>
Income from operations:	44,098
Other changes in net assets without donor restrictions	
Net realized and unrealized gains	13,824
Depreciation	(71,094)
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	<u>(13,172)</u>
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	
Contributions and grants	30,906
Interest and dividend income	181,451
Net realized and unrealized gains	122,340
Net assets released from restrictions	(338,266)
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	<u>(3,569)</u>
Total change in net assets	(16,741)

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Auction Committee & Volunteers

Ann-Marie Adams
Ashley's Distinctive Jewelry
& Gifts
Dawn Ackerson
Bob Bell
Sharon Bellinger

John Berky
Marilyn Boehm
Liz & Jim Burke
Frank Carmon
Kathy Carroll
Tim Connolly
Ruth Fahrback
Lucia Gentles

Dave Gillette
Tom Gorman
Randy Graff
Harold Harper
Jordan Florist
Roseann Lemkey
Dorothy McAllister
Anita Mips

Linda Molod
Ed Paquette
Samantha Persaud
Zandra Persaud
Agnes Pier
Steve Porcaro
Peggy Ristas
Mike Taylor
Laura Toal
Mark Walker
Jim Welsh
Windsor Federal Savings
Colette Yeich

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Dorothy Ball
Donna Baron
Marianne Curling
Kevin Ferrigno
Karen Parsons

Finance Committee

Martin McMahon, Chair
John Berky
Tim Connolly
Ruth Fahrback
Thomas Gilmartin
Thomas Gorman
Randall Graff
Mark Walker

Grounds Volunteers

Becky & Paul Hendricks
Gordon & Betsy Kenneson
Walt Stevenson
Jim Trocchi
Town of Windsor
Windsor Garden Club

Nominating/ Governance Committee

Bob Bell
Liz Burke
Jim Welsh

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Ken Anderson
Ann Beaudin
Bob Bell
Marilyn Boehm
Elaine Brophy
Liz Burke
Lea Chayes
Pat Congelosi
Deb Dusseault
Ruth Fahrback
William Harris
Rick & Ann Hazelton
Janet Henderson
Rob Hoskin
Laura Jary
Coralee Jones
Mary Kelling
Betsy & Gordon Kenneson
Marsha Mason
Dorothy McAllister
Anita Mips
Donna Myers
Ed Paquette
Ellye Rosenberg
Nanci Scully
Barbara Tanguay
Laura Toal
Jim Trocchi
Diane Varholak
Diane Vozzola
Dawn Whitney

ANNUAL GIVING

The following individuals, businesses, foundations, and granting agencies made gifts to support general operating costs, programs, and exhibitions at the Society between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Their names appear in the category that reflects their giving totals for this period. We make every effort to ensure accuracy in this report. Please report omissions and errors to the Society.

\$10,000 or greater

Estate of Gordon Ulmer
Connecticut Humanities

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Estate of Walter Becker

\$1,000 to \$4,999

John Bainbridge
Eugene Bissell
Ruth Fahrback
Donald Joffray
William Hosley & Christine Ermenc
Robert & Dorothy McAllister
Mike & Lu Rabbett
Seattle Foundation
Town of Windsor

\$500 to \$999

Jim & Liz Burke
Marcia & Sam Hinckley
Griffin Industrial Realty
Ed Paquette & Chris Catania
Agnes Pier

\$250 to \$499

Deborah Baker
John & Marjory Berky
Randall & Carla Clark
Randall Graff
Mark Griffin
Rachel Hatch
Albert Ilg
Coralee Jones
David & Mary Lou Peters
Peter & Lisa Souza
Al Stalb & Suzie Jacques
Walter Stevenson
Diane & Gary Whitney
Colette & Bob Yeich
Susan Zorro

\$100 to \$249

Leon & Madeline Alford
 Nancy & Skip Alford
 Lynne Allen
 Diana & Douglas Barnard
 Brigitte Becker
 Bob & Jane Bell
 Doug Bertel
 Al & Marilyn Boehm
 Brian Bosch
 Joseph & Theresa Breen
 Laura Soll Broxterman &
 Paul Broxterman
 Marie Bruhn
 Barry & Ruth Budlong
 Aric Callahan
 Liz & Jim Carlin
 Carmon Community Funeral
 Homes
 John & Linda Carmon
 Alan & Kathleen Collette
 Tony Davenport
 Tim & Janet Ellsworth
 Mark Fearon
 Linda Fellows
 Skip & Mona Fisher
 Tim Fitzgerald & Meg Collins
 Priscilla Ford
 Harry Freeman
 Bill & Viv Gombert
 Leo Graywacz
 Paul & Martha Green
 Anthony Griego
 Elizabeth Hallas
 Dorothy Havens
 Katharine & Tim Hayes
 Richard & Anne Hazelton
 Robert & Cherie Henselder
 Mary Hogan
 Maridel Horsfall
 Estate of Gertrude Hotchkiss
 Andrew & Claudette Johnson
 John & Mary Kelling
 Heidi & Tom Kelsey
 Lee Kuckro
 Charlene Li
 Richard Liebler
 Edward Lukstas
 Endres Mac Campbell
 Roberta Merrigan
 Donna & Larry Myers
 Carol Nelson

Marilyn & Howard Neuschaefer
 Michael & Denise Novak
 Sarah & Robert O'Brien
 Vincent & Jane Oswecki
 Victoria Patton
 Lon & Jane Pelton
 Bonnie Pierce
 Margaret & John Quigley
 Tim & Jane Reinsch
 Duane Reyhl
 Linda & Ian Rickard
 Robert Sheldon
 Douglas Shipman
 David & Mary Jane Snyder
 Marian Sorbo
 Michael & Bonnie Stephens
 Pauline Sundt
 Robert Swanson
 Connie & Ron Thomas
 James Trocchi
 Susan & Allan Viner
 Windsor Woman's Club

Gifts under \$100

Darlene & William Anderson
 Janet & Adrian Atkins
 Stephen Bartkus
 Patricia Bellinger
 Sharon Bellinger
 Holly Beum
 Edward & Carolyn Bogus
 Bruce Boucher
 Nancy Brakke
 Joan & Richard Brigham
 Col. Edward Brown
 Joan Brundage
 Edward & Maryanne Bulewich
 Scott & Carrie Burghoff
 Thomas & Helen Butterfield
 Michelle Cardoza
 Joan Clapp
 Lauren Clarke
 Shirley Cmara
 Pat Congelosi
 Neal Cunningham &
 Rosemary Hogan
 John & Marjorie D'Agata
 Barbara Davis
 Cynthia & Paul Demers
 Victor & Jean Desjardins
 Thomas & Susan Diveley
 Robin Dufner

Ralph Eggleston
 David & Debra Ellingwood
 Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth
 Chapter DAR
 Richard & Paulette Evans
 Pamela Feehan
 Elizabeth & Louis Ferrero
 Susan & John Foote
 Beverly Garvan
 Geissler's Supermarket
 Diane Giansanti Runde
 Doris Hayden Gorgas
 James Gotta
 Joan Gourgas
 Barbara Gridley
 James & Judi Hayden
 Hayden Station Fire Company
 Joan Hayes
 Todd & Liz Hellewell
 Barbara & Cdr. C.G. Ivey, Jr.
 Warren & Ruth Johnson
 Joan & Raymond Juba
 Betsy & Gordon Kenneson
 Debra Keyser
 Conrad & Jacquelin Krupa
 Karen LaClair
 Cheryl Lindberg
 Marillyn Loomis
 Robert Lyle
 Joan Lynch
 Bruce MacClintic
 William MacDonnell
 Evelyn & Raymond Mak
 Elizabeth Malloy
 Devin & Michelle Marquez
 Marsha Mason
 Donna McCarty
 William & Patrice Melley
 Marsha Merrill
 Dorothy Merz
 Linda Mihalek
 Brian & Dede Moore
 Florence Morrill
 Martin & Pamela Noreika
 Edith O'Donnell
 Elaine Olson
 Casey Oto
 Michael Panik
 Ann Parkhurst
 Joyace Peoples
 Robert Plunge
 Rabbett Insurance Agency

Patricia & John Reardon
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Larry Sack & Ellye Rosenberg
Russell Salk
Nanci Scully
James Silliman
Sir Speedy of Bloomfield
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Henry & Elaine Traverso
Valerie Turner
Paul & Maureen Vagnini
Kristen Wands
Lois Warner
Tod & Carol Wilson
Wilson Paint & Wallpaper
Center, Inc.

Corporate Match Donations

Aetna Foundation
Benevity Community Impact Fund
General Electric
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.

In-kind Donations

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Back East Brewery
Brown's Harvest
Tim Connolly
Tom Gorman
Millbrook Liquors
Agnes Pier
Jim Welsh
Suffield Wines
Union Street Tavern

Object Donors

Ron Albrizio
Frederick Alford
Leon Alford
Avon Historical Society
Dorothy Ball
John Berky
Edward Case
Alan Collette
Esther DeFreitas

Rosina Dixon
Ruth Fahrback
Beverly Garvan
David Gillette
Henry Graulty
Mary Halsdorf
Paula Ingham
Elizabeth Kenneson
Gordon Kenneson
Joan Lynch
Marci and Bob Martin
Pauline M'Grath
Elaine Mocklis, Mocklis Realty
Services, Inc.
Jane Morin
Ronald Peaslee
Lon Pelton
Ron Perrault
Susan Tait Porcaro
Milton Porteus
Phil Sikora
James Silver
Erin Stevic
Michelle Tom
Celine Zaczynski

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

In memory of Gayle Alford

Leon Alford
Nancy & Skip Alford
Hayden Fire Station Company

Connie Thomas

In memory of Warren Ball

Donna McCarty

Brian Moore

David Peters

Agnes Pier

Mike & Lu Rabbett

In memory of Vivian Cicero

Patricia Bellinger

Agnes Pier

In memory of Julia Costanzo

John & Margie D'Agata

James Gotta

Devin & Michelle Marquez

Diane Giansanti Runde

Tod & Carol Wilson

In memory of Edward Darcy

Joan Juba

In honor of Christine Ermenc

Diana Barnard

Janet Wallace
Donald & Susan Joffray
Susan & Allan Viner
Timothy & Jane Reinsch
Diane & Gary Whitney
Randall & Carla Clark
John & Mary Kelling
Stephen Bartkus
Priscilla Ford
Kristen Wands
Andrew & Claudette Johnson
Cheryl Lindberg
Bob & Dottie McAllister
Roberta Merrigan
Lawrence & Donna Myers
Deborah Baker
Carmon's Funeral Homes
Beverly Garvan
Bill & Vivian Gombert
Nanci Scully
Marian Sorbo
Barbara Tanguay
Connie Thomas
Marcia & Sam Hinckley
Susan Zorro

In memory of Orsamus R. Fyler

Estate of Gertrude Hotchkiss

In memory of Michael Gagnon

Thomas & Susan Diveley

In memory of Beverly Garvan

Joan Clapp

Lauren Clarke

Shirley Cmara

Elaine Olson

Agnes Pier

Robert Plunge

Connie Thomas

In memory of Margaret Jedziniak

Coralee Jones

In memory of Elizabeth Parker

Bruce Boucher

David & Debra Ellingwood

Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth

DAR Chapter

Bill & Vivian Gombert

Betsy & Gordon Kenneson

Victoria Patton

Mike & Lu Rabbett

Colleen Olson

David & Mary Jane Snyder

Susan Zorro

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medications). Interestingly, while his estate inventory lists medical equipment like “tooth instruments,” “surgeon’s instruments,” and a “chamberlains midwifery” along with shop furniture and medicine, no mention is made of an actual shop. His prescriptions were written in English but also contained various Latin terms, a reference to his past with Dr. Wolcott, who history recalls, was somewhat upset with Dr. Manumit’s success. As Jabez Hayden, another Windsor historian, records, when Dr. Manumit passed him in his sulky, Dr. Wolcott exclaimed in disgust, “and the [n-word] doctor has got a sulky too!” (Sulkys were one-horse, two-wheeled buggies preferred by doctors because it only allowed room for one person during a time when it was customary to pick up those they passed on foot).

On April 20, 1782, Dr. Manumit passed away with an estate valued around 128 pounds, placing him in the upper class of the black community and modestly wealthy among his white counterparts. However, by borrowing small amounts from numerous people, he had also accumulated a debt of 135 pounds. This relatively large amount may be attributed to many high-profile investments such as a dwelling house assessed to be around £40, a barn (£15), and horse (£8). Indeed, he owed the largest portion of his debt to Benjamin Cook, from whom he was leasing his land.

A further look into Dr. Manumit’s inventory indicates that he strongly valued his appearance and intellect. His clothing collection included three vests, four coats, a great coat, 12 hats, silver shoe buckles, and a silver

watch - uncommon for any man regardless of race. He also owned a bookshelf with four Latin books and numerous religious pieces such as Whitefield's Sermons, a psalm book, and scripture history. These items comport with white Windsor historians’ descriptions of his manner and appearance as “well informed,” “fine-looking,” and “quite gentlemanly.”

In the end, with such limited documentary resources on Dr. Primus Manumit, it is difficult to get a complete understanding of his life. There are many missing details that would be interesting to explore, such as when and how he ended up enslaved by Dr. Wolcott, his early life, and possible military service. Dr. Manumit was an extraordinary man with countless accomplishments and we can only hope to learn even more about him.

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!

COLLECTIONS

Dorothy Ball, Donna Baron, Marianne Curling, Kevin Ferrigno, and Elizabeth Rose

EDUCATION & EVENTS

Ann Beaudin, Bob Bell, Liz Burke, Eileen Curley, Cindy Daniels, Carolyn

Doyle, Ciara Doyle, Mary Kelling, Gordon Kenneson, Judy Locker, Marsha Mason, Roberta Merrigan, Donna Myers, Barbara Tanguay, and Jim Trocchi

FRONT DESK AND ADMINISTRATION

Deb Dusseault, Gordon Kenneson, Marsha Mason, Donna Myers, Ed Paquette, Barbara Tanguay, Jim Trocchi, and Dawn Whitney

GROUNDS

Becky and Paul Hendricks, Gordon and Betsy Kenneson, Walt Stevenson, Jim Trocchi, the Town of Windsor, and Windsor Garden Club

INCLUSION TEAM

Sharon Bellinger, Ashley Coleman, Marcia Hinckley, Randy McKenney, Agnes Pier, Doug Shipman, and Michelle Tom

LIBRARY

Ken Anderson, Elaine Brophy, Rob Hoskin, Elena Peters, Iniya Raja

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Florence Barlow, Kaleitha Brown, Liz Burke, Daniel Crittenden, Randy Graff, Albert Ilg, Charles Jackson, Jonathan McGlynn, John Mooney, Enita Jubrey, Agnes Pier, Doug Shipman, and Colette Yeich

In Memoriam: Volunteer Bill Harris

We are sad to share that one of our most committed volunteers and former board member, Bill Harris, passed away in January. Bill started greeting folks at our reception desk and giving tours over 10 years ago. He was a truly dedicated volunteer. He was always there when we needed help and spread the word about our museum all over town. He loved history and was never happier than when giving a tour of our historic houses, galleries, or the neighborhood.

Behind the scenes, our staff benefitted from his baking skills

and keen sense for picking out mouthwatering recipes. We were happy to be “guinea pigs” when he was trying something new. Bill also frequently donated his baked goods and many other generous gifts to our auctions and various events.

It was always entertaining to chat with him at the front desk on Saturdays. We are truly going to miss Bill and his steadfast and enthusiastic presence here at Windsor Historical Society. Thank you, Bill, for all you’ve done for us and for the town of Windsor.



Research Requests “R” Us!

Yes, so much of what our staff does involves helping people with research requests, whether academic, genealogical, or – like this one – using our museum collections to gather data for a social history study! In early March, Nevan Carling, a student of archaeology and heritage management at the University of York in the UK, assembled one of our antique looms to obtain measurements necessary to catalogue the loom for the North American Handloom Survey. Nevan, shown here with Society facilities manager Terence Bagby, is cataloging looms for the Marshfield School of Weaving in Marshfield, Vermont, which will allow them to draw conclusions about domestic cloth production in the pre-industrial period.

Walter and Frances Becker generously donated this loom to the Society in 1978, shown here fully assembled.

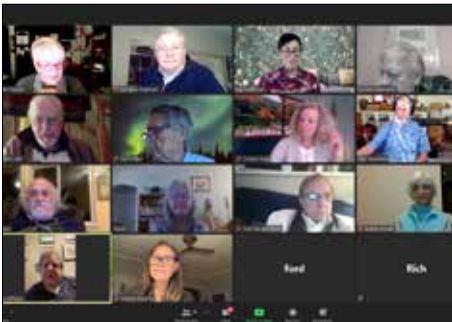
It was great to see the loom come together again!



Spring/Summer Events

Register for any of these programs at windsorhistoricalsociety.org, email us at info@windsorhistoricalsociety.org, or call us at 860-688-3813.

Genealogy Support Group and Photos Sharing Events are free.



Thursdays, May 6, June 3, August 5, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Virtual Genealogical Support Group

Just starting to research your family tree? Experienced but stumped? This informal gathering of fellow researchers engages in lively discussion and problem-solving. We will be meeting via Zoom until it is safe to return to in-person. Registration required for Zoom meeting link at windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

Free.



Dr. Fiona Vernal

Thursday, April 15, 7 PM to 8:30 PM
Virtual History Program - Removing the Gates: How We are All Responsible for Inclusion

How can historians and historical societies fulfill their social responsibility to tell more inclusive and accessible stories? And how can the public leverage their stake in this conversation to demand and support more equitable programming? Join University of Connecticut historian, **Dr. Fiona Vernal**, as she explores models of engaged, public, oral, and community histories that reveal why Georgia featured so prominently in the Great Migration of African Americans to Connecticut, how West Indians became the largest foreign-born population in the state, and what happens when we tell the story of shade tobacco as an intersection of labor, identity, mobility, and migration.

\$5 advanced registration required.



Thursday, May 20, 7 to 8:30 PM
Welcome Home: Windsor Veterans Virtual Photo Share

In cooperation with the Windsor Senior Center, Windsor-area Veterans are invited to share a special photo or image of their time in uniform as well as their memories about what makes the photo so special! Historical Society and Senior Center staff will assist with collecting and scanning photos so that Veterans can easily share with each other online during the program. Veterans will be able to keep their original photos while helping Windsor Historical Society document the experiences of Windsor men and women in uniform!

Free. See photo sharing instructions top right.

Instructions for Virtual Photo Share Event:

If you have a photo you'd like to share, please send it to us in advance of the program. You can send it via email to mtom@windsorhistoricalsociety.org, or you can mail or drop off the photo at WHS or at the Windsor Senior Center and we'll scan it in and return it to you. Please include the following information about the photo if you have it: date, names of people or places in the photo, location, name of photographer, and anything else we should know about the scene depicted. During the Virtual Photo Share event we will display each photo and invite you to speak for up to three minutes about your special experience!



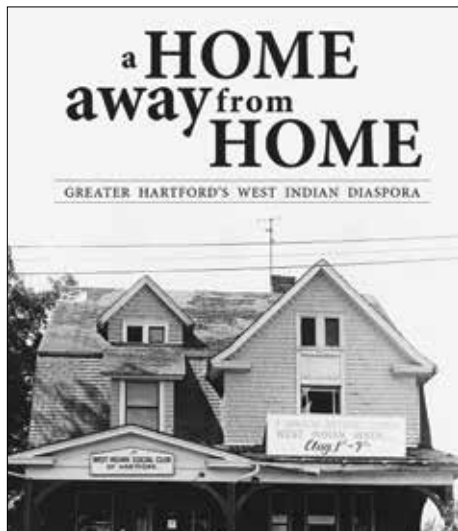
Saturday, June 12, 11 AM to 4 PM
CT Open House Day

Celebrate the beginning of the summer season at Windsor Historical Society! Our museum and historic houses will be open for in-person tours. Visit our special exhibit **Windsor in 1921: The Paradox of Progress**, and our gift shop that's chock full of Windsor gifts, local history books and our large selection of Black, Latinx, and Indigenous history books!

Admission is free for this special one-day event.

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Wednesday, June 23, 6:30 to 8:30 PM
A Home Away from Home: Greater Hartford's West Indian Diaspora. Exhibit opening and WHS Annual Meeting and program.

Explore this fascinating exhibit and talk with curator and UCONN historian Fiona Vernal, PhD. Professor Vernal's oral histories and research bring to life the experiences of the region's West Indian community. Following the exhibit, cocktails, and a brief WHS Annual Meeting, Professor Vernal will share highlights of her research and bring the story "home" with a discussion of Windsor's many West Indian connections and opportunities for expanding the exhibit. This is an indoor/outdoor event with face masks and social distancing required. Don't miss it!

Rain date: June 30. \$5 non-members. Members free.

Sunday, June 27, 11 AM to 4 PM
Ancestry Allies: 2021 Virtual Genealogy Help Day

Where can you get help from some of the most knowledgeable genealogical researchers around, all in one place? Join experts from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Windsor Historical Society, and other specialists for a virtual genealogy help day! Register for personal consultations on genealogy for beginners, general

genealogy, Windsor, Canadian, Polish, Jewish, African-American, or other special focus areas. Proceeds support the Connecticut State Library History and Genealogy Reference Department.

\$10 advanced registration required.



Wednesday, August 11, 10 to 11:30 AM
Collections Spotlight: A Century of Change – Windsor's Streetscapes 1921-2021

At Windsor Historical Society.

Join Archivist Michelle Tom for a fascinating photographic tour of Windsor's evolving streetscapes through examination of period photos from the Society's collections. A trip down memory lane!

\$5 advanced registration required.

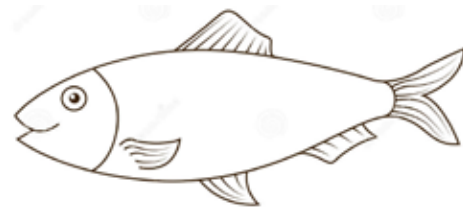
Tuesday, August 17, 10 to 11:30 AM
A Century of Change – Windsor's Streetscapes 1921-2021,

At Windsor Senior Center.

Join Windsor Historical Society Archivist Michelle Tom for a fascinating photographic tour of Windsor's evolving streetscapes through examination of period photos from the Society's collections. A trip down memory lane!

\$5 registration at Windsor Senior Center.

Special Programs for Kids!



Saturday, May 15, 11 AM to 2 PM
Fishing for Fun!

There are no bones about it - even without the Shad Derby this year, families can still participate in a "scaled-back" version of shad-themed fun! Join us and Bart's Restaurant for a fin-tastic and COVID-safe outdoor gala of activities for children pre-K to grade 6, including fishing for prizes, shad painting, shad cooking demonstration, and more! Face masks and social distancing required.

Advanced registration: \$5 per child or \$10 per family. Same-day registration: \$7/child or \$15/family. Rain date: Saturday, May 22.

Monday – Friday, July 12-16, 8:30 AM to 12 NOON

History Explorers Summer Children's Program

NEW!

Are you looking for entertaining and educational activities for children this summer? Join us for this week-long, historically focused program for children in age groups 8 to 10 and 11 to 13. Participants will explore Windsor history through historical activities, games, crafts, tours, and presentations at the Society and adjacent sites in Windsor's historic Palisado neighborhood. Safety is the top priority. Current State and CDC health guidelines will be followed. For information call (860) 688-3813 or email jmooney@windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

Advanced registration required: \$100 per child for the full week program. Registration begins April 12th at windsorhistoricalsociety.org.