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Windsor House Tour Returns After Four Years!

**NEW TO OLD AND BACK AGAIN:
WINDSOR'S ICONIC HOMES
RENEWED** *By Ed Paquette*



Every home tells a story. These stories represent generations of people – individuals and families – who form the building blocks of our town's broad historical narrative. Nowhere is Windsor's vibrant and diverse culture more powerfully displayed than in our town's beautifully crafted houses, both old and new. The Windsor Historical Society House Tour provides one of the most interesting and enjoyable vehicles for directly experiencing the history and culture of

(continued on page 3)

The Librarian's Brother, Part II *By Anne C. Wheeler, PhD*

Associate professor of composition/rhetoric and writing program director at Springfield College

On the occasion of Windsor Historical Society's 100th anniversary, this is the second of a two-part article that attempts to tell the story of the donors whose contributions became the foundation of the Society's collections in 1921. Part I focused on George Hoadley and his motivations behind making such a large donation to us. Part II turns to his brother Charles and his consideration of his own legacy.

After Charles Hoadly died, his successor as State Librarian of Connecticut wrote a report in which he detailed the state of the library:

"As to the number of books and pamphlets contained in the Library I am unable to state. The fact that they are stored in four different rooms with often two or more rows upon a shelf or in heaps, and the fact that no accession numbers have been maintained, makes even an estimate unsatisfactory."

Having spent countless hours researching Charles, I was initially surprised to learn that the library would have been in such a state of apparent disorder. However, in a memorial text written about ten years after his death, the author

describes the only successful vacation that Charles ever took, a trip to London in 1879, which adds some clarity:

"One who was with him in London said that Dr. Hoadly's memory was better than a guide-book, for it never erred. Every street in the city proper had for him innumerable historical or literary associations."

Charles possessed the ability to navigate physical, three-dimensional spaces based on his ability to remember written accounts, maps, and images. The same account notes that *"to the end of his life he could repeat verbatim long extracts from Latin authors whose pages he had not looked at since his college days."* Charles' spatial memory combined with this memory of content tells us that, accession numbers or not, he was very much aware of exactly what items were in his library and where they were kept. I am placing this emphasis on the depth and breadth of Charles' memory because it is safe to suppose that his extensive memory extended to the artifacts in his personal collections; as an

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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.

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Michelle Tom, *Librarian/Archivist*

Kristen Wands, *Curator*

Visit us

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

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

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

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



Doug Shipman
Executive Director

Stepping Into Spring!

Bet you thought I was going to say "stepping into the next century together" again? But who isn't ready for spring, am I right? Warmer weather and (dare I say it?) improving COVID-19 conditions mean that we can start doing fun things with history in person again!

School field trips are starting to come back, the Shad Derby Festival is a GO this year (the shad always return!), and I hope you are ready to join us for some long overdue fun as well! Here are a few highlights:

First, for those who have volunteered for WHS in the past year – Centennial or otherwise – or have shared your Windsor story, we invite you to let us share our deep appreciation on April 27th at the L.P. Wilson Community Center! Our **Centennial Appreciation Gala** – free and open to all volunteers and their families – will feature the wonderful Windsor stories and images gathered over the past year, along with delicious refreshments and of course great company.

We're proud to be a partner in the Windsor Shad Derby Bureau, and elated to see the Festival return to the Windsor Town Green this year as well. The Society's contribution this year will be our popular **Fishing For Fun** program featuring a barrel full of shad-themed outdoor activities for children grades pre-K through 5. To be held on our own

front lawn on Saturday, May 14, this fun event will just bait the hook for the big festival the following weekend.

Like the shad, the **Windsor House Tour** always returns too! Set for Saturday, June 18th, this will be our first house tour in four years, and we're ready to celebrate with a fascinating array of historic homes and structures, many of them centered around Palisado Green, which will be party central for this great community event. This is when Windsor gets to share its first-in-the-state history, beautiful architecture, and fascinating Windsor stories with people from all over the region, so please plan to join us and help spread the word!

Capping off the spring season will be the Society's annual meeting and program, entitled **Family Histories and You!** on Wednesday, June 22. This year, acclaimed genealogist Sandra Taitt-Eaddy will talk about the importance of gathering and preserving family histories. Specializing in Caribbean and African American genealogy, Sandra will share stories, tips, and her own experiences to inspire each of us to dig deeper into our own past. You won't want to miss it!

There is, of course, a lot more and none of this is complete without you! Please check the back page of this newsletter for more details on how you can participate and join the fun.

See you this spring!

(continued from page 1)

Connecticut's first town. It is one of our largest public engagement and fundraising events and brings together diverse elements of the Windsor community.

This year's tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 18th from 10am – 4pm and includes an assorted array of private homes. In addition, we are including three structures that previously served as homes and are now occupied by businesses. The houses on this year's tour are located in Rainbow, Poquonock, Wilson, and the Windsor Center area. Attendees will visit 18th-century colonials, Craftsman-style "cottages", traditional farmhouses (woodframe and brick), a cape, a Sears Roebuck kit bungalow, and a grand Victorian-era manse, each dating from the early-1700s through the turn

of the 20th century. All of these homes have been lovingly tended to, renovated, or expanded over the years. They have hosted births, deaths, weddings, graduations, and a multitude of other family milestones. They have weathered wars, hurricanes, blizzards, tornados, and pandemics. And they harbor fascinating stories about their occupants, neighborhoods, and our town.

House Tour tickets can be purchased online at windsorhistoricalsociety.org, at the Windsor Historical Society, or select locations around Windsor. The cost is \$35 in advance and \$40 on the day of the tour.



Volunteers are needed to staff the houses in two-hour shifts.

House tour volunteers receive free admission to the entire house tour and the Homeowner & Volunteer Appreciation After-Party at the Society from 4-6 PM the day of the tour.

Interested?

Contact Ed Paquette at 860-818-8024 (phone/text) or edpaq66@gmail.com.



Photo by Sue Tait Porcaro.

Meet our New Intern!

By Chelsea Lonergan

My name is Chelsea Lonergan and I am very thankful to be the new intern at Windsor Historical Society! When I decided to go back to school at age 26, I knew I wanted to study history. I have always had a passion for learning about the past because it can teach us so much about how we got here and especially where we should go into the future. Now, four years after making the decision to go back to school, I am a senior at Central Connecticut State University and thinking hard about which career path to choose. Being a part of an organization

that works to educate the public by preserving and interpreting the past is a dream come true!

This internship is a wonderful opportunity for me to experience what working in the public history field is all about. I am excited to gain every bit of knowledge I can, while also contributing as much as I can to WHS!

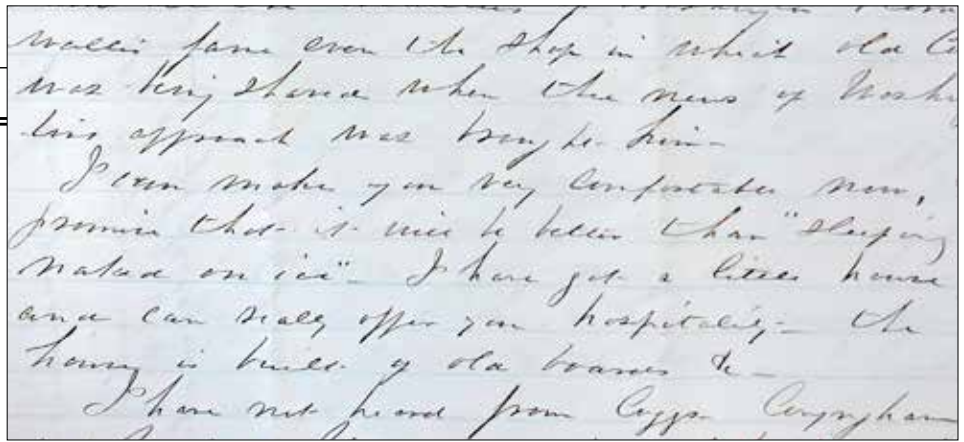


(continued from page 1)

archivist/historian/genealogist/collector, he would have been very much aware of what it meant to leave papers behind and how these papers would have been interpreted by future generations.

Some of those future generations have latched onto a collection of letters written to Charles by Griffin Alexander Stedman during the latter's time as an officer in the Union Army during the Civil War. Stedman was ten years younger than Charles, and though they both had strong ties to Trinity College, neither the letters nor any secondary source narratives reveal whether their tenures there overlapped or how their friendship developed. Nevertheless, by the time Stedman reached his post, he was close enough to Charles to sign every letter "Your attached friend." The letters are one-sided; Stedman was killed in the war in 1864, and there is no record of Charles' letters having survived. The handwriting ranges from precise to so illegible that I imagine Stedman writing from the battlefield with a flask of whiskey in his hands.

Charles Hoadly portrait
WHS collections
2021.1.15



Excerpt from a letter from Griffin A. Stedman to Charles J. Hoadly, 1863. Hoadley Fund Autograph Collection, 1788-1929, Ms 52770, the Connecticut Historical Society.

Where Charles' biographers and others who wrote about him addressed him with reverence and precision, Stedman was open, honest, and not afraid to poke fun at his friend: "By this time no doubt you are reveling in your enlarged quarters [...] so that more books [can fit]." Sadly because we know the outcome, he frequently tells Charles to visit him. He writes, "I can make you very comfortable now, and surmise that it mite [sic] be better than 'sleeping naked on ice.' I have got a little house, and can really offer you hospitality."

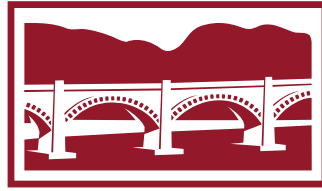
According to the biography, London was Charles' only successful vacation because, "An attempt at another proved a failure; he was back at his post before the week was out."

Was Charles' failed vacation an attempt to visit his "attached friend?" What did Charles want to remember as a result of saving these letters? What story did the letters tell to his brother George who, as executor of Charles' estate and primary heir, would have undertaken the task of sifting, sorting, and inventorying the contents of Charles' private collections? What didn't George save? When building mnemonic bridges to remember ancestors, what was being forgotten?

At this moment in my investigation, I must take my cue from Charles himself and show the Hoadly/Hoadley brothers the conscientiousness he showed his own subjects. As described in a biography by the Acorn Club: "As scholar and historian he occupied himself with the minute details of severely restricted fields of historical and legal investigation; preferring to work therein with care and accuracy than to treat larger subjects with brilliant inexactness."

This statement sets up a kind of posthumous challenge to future researchers; we are encouraged to avoid broad generalizations and instead focus on care and accuracy when attempting to reconstruct histories. However, in a manner that is almost capricious, the historical materials left behind by Hoadly, and his brother George, are filled with moments so enigmatic that the temptation to draw massive, and sometimes salacious, conclusions is overwhelming.

Instead, I must avoid the thrall of "brilliant inexactness" and instead focus on what I know: Charles and George were brothers who lived together for most, if not all, of their lives. Charles' will entrusted George with the bulk of his estate and made the modest request that a "handsome wrought, not cast, iron fence" be built around



WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bridging Centuries. Bridging Cultures.

Annual Report 2020 - 2021

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.

Celebrating our 99th Year!

That's right, odd as it may seem since as of this writing our centennial is now past, this annual report covers the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, the period spanning our 99th anniversary! We will have to wait until next spring for our centennial annual report.

The year was shaped in large part by the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, which posed both challenges and opportunities for Society programs and operations. Between adaptive use of technology and welcome bouts of nice weather for outdoor programs, we were able to continue offering a full slate of innovative programs, exhibits, and events, as well as keep the wheels of the organization's library, administration, finances, facilities, and collections management turning smoothly. We are certainly blessed with a great team of staff, board, members, and volunteers who made this all possible!

Significantly, we did not allow the pandemic to derail our two big priorities for 2020-21: advancing our inclusion efforts and preparing for our centennial. Two exhibit openings served as very public symbols of these efforts. *Windsor in 1921: The Paradox of Progress* vividly illustrated the times leading up to the Society's formation and laid

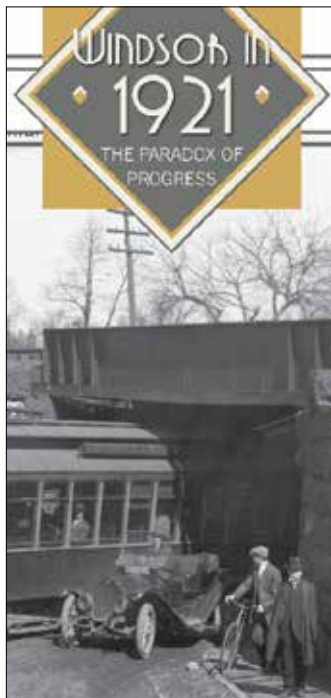
the groundwork for the centennial exhibit that followed. Reinterpretation of the venerable Hezekiah Chaffee House featured both *Bound Together: Complexities of Black-White Relations in Early Windsor* and *A Home Away From Home: Greater Hartford's West Indian Diaspora*, which brought to life the compelling experiences of the region's earliest and contemporary Black residents.

Financially, the Society continued to benefit from the foresight of generous donors large and small. Donor support for the 100th Anniversary Fund enabled the centennial planning committee and Board to think big in terms of how we could best engage the community in the Society's mission and history. Our endowment, as reflected in the "net realized and unrealized gains" entry on the accompanying financial report, was significantly buoyed by seemingly boundless stock market returns (with knowledge of what came next, you will know that these gains were not sustained in the following year). The Society's financial position, however, remains sound, and with prudent management – and your generous support – we continue to maximize our resources to support our vital community-based mission!

Douglas R. Shipman
Executive Director

Programs and Services: Keeping History Alive During Changing Times

Fair weather allowed this fiscal year to begin with a welcome respite from pandemic-induced isolation and an opportunity to bring history outdoors. The long-awaited *Annie's Home* book launch brought out members and friends to secure their copies of this fabulous story and to congratulate author **Christine Ermenc** and illustrator **Sue Tait Porcaro** for their remarkable effort. Little Annie (portrayed by WHS neighbor **Ciara Doyle**) and members of the (reenacted) Howard family welcomed guests to this exciting event.



Curator **Kristen Wands** brought *Windsor in 1921: The Paradox of Progress* to life in October. This visually stunning exhibit drew visitors into the rapidly changing Windsor of the early-20th century and the many forces that compelled our predecessors to form a historical society to preserve what they feared would soon be lost. Society staff later preserved this fascinating exhibit in the form of a virtual tour, available on the Society's own YouTube channel!

Like many organizations, the Society looked to technology – this time in the form of Zoom video conferencing – to bring its winter programs into homes across the country. Genealogists from California, Colorado, and New Jersey joined locals for our popular Genealogy Support Group. As the Board of Directors approved the Society's new Inclusion Action Plan and Strategic Plan, virtual programs such as **Jamal Jimerson's** *Why Now? Museums, Race and the Road to Inclusion*, and UCONN historian **Dr. Fiona Vernal's** *How Audiences and Institutions are Responsible for Inclusion* helped underscore the Society's strategic focus.

Warmer weather brought a welcome return to outdoor, in-person programs. Although the Windsor Shad Derby Festival was cancelled for the second year in a row, we hosted dozens of children and their families for some shad-themed activities at our "Fishing for Fun" program. Librarian/archivist **Michelle Tom** led our first-ever Veterans Photo Share program in a hybrid in-person/virtual format that allowed us to both collect and share the stories of Veterans from World War II through Iraq.

The fiscal year closed with CT Open House Day and our festive outdoor annual meeting and program in June. The annual meeting featured the



reopening and reinterpretation of the Hezekiah Chaffee House with two new exhibits focused on the region's Black experience. *Bound Together: Complexities of Black-White Relations in Early Windsor* was curated by **Kristen Wands**, and a new, temporary exhibit entitled *A Home Away From Home: Greater Hartford's West Indian Diaspora*, was curated by Professor **Fiona Vernal**, who also presented an engaging talk about her efforts to collect oral histories of the region's West Indian immigrants (see photo below).

A welcome 70-degree November weekend brought almost 1,000 people out to the Society's first-ever "Second Hand in the First Town Tag Sale Fundraiser". Spread across the entire 96 Palisado Avenue property, over 60 hardworking volunteers sorted and priced hundreds of donated items, and the three-day event yielded over \$10,000 to support our programs and operations.



Museum Collections: Collecting and Preserving with a Purpose

Fiscal year 2020-21 was tumultuous for all Americans, a fact reflected in Society’s collections program as well. In addition to the unfolding global pandemic, the nationwide protest over the treatment of Black Americans and focus on the Black Lives Matter movement also affected Windsor’s history. Local residents responded supportively, and we kept in step by collecting images, artifacts, and ephemera associated with both the pandemic and the protest movement. We included some of the protest images in a special exhibition panel documenting *Another Windsor First: Acknowledging Racism as a Public Health Crisis*, unveiled at Windsor Town Hall in February 2021, in recognition of Black History Month.

As public outcry about racism and racially motivated oppression grew, the Windsor Town Council voted not only to declare racism a public health crisis, but also voted to remove the John Mason statue from its place of prominence on Palisado Green. In summer 2020, the Society offered to accept the statue on its property but remained concerned about potential future vandalism. Throughout FY 2020-21, Society staff and board worked to negotiate a transfer of the statue to WHS, as well as begin planning for what was expected to be an inclusive interpretation of the statue and related history. As the fiscal year ended in June 2021, negotiations with the State of Connecticut for the statue’s transfer had not concluded.

The Society continued to benefit from a very professional staff, a dedicated collections committee, and generous donors who care about preserving Windsor’s diverse history. **Milton Porteus** donated an early-19th-century tiered corner washstand inscribed in chalk: “Miss Talcott”, signed by Jeremiah C. Cleveland, an Aaron Chapin shop apprentice. “Miss Talcott” refers to Abigail Talcott Chaffee Morgan, who married Hezekiah Chaffee Jr. and Jasper Morgan, both of whom lived in the Palisado green neighborhood. This lovely artifact has been restored by talented anonymous volunteers and installed in the Chaffee House.

With the support of longtime member **Florence Barlow** and many others, the Society worked closely with UCONN history professor **Fiona Vernal** to begin collecting oral histories and developing a history of the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association (WAACA). UCONN history intern **Sulema DePeyster**, who supported this program as an undergraduate, joined the Society staff in June 2021 as our new Community History Specialist to oversee the

WAACA and other community-based history projects.

Drucilla Davison and **Jane Morin** kindly donated Hatheway family materials, particularly made by C. Robert Hatheway, a Poquonock photographer and artist. **Emily Thompson** and the **Shad Derby Bureau** donated an icon of past Shad Derby Festivals: “Queen Roe Ena”, a five-foot tall, wooden



Fishing for Fun was a great time for all. Photo by Doug Shipman.

.....
cutout shad wearing a cape, crown, and sash and decorated with paint and glitter. This lively addition to the education collection has already become a popular part of our shad-themed Fishing for Fun program as shown here.

The collections committee, led by curator **Kristen Wands** and librarian/archivist **Michelle Tom**, experienced change as well. We regretfully said goodbye as a dear friend, longtime member and Loomis Chaffee School archivist and teacher **Karen Parsons** (pictured here), stepped down from



Karen Parsons steps down from Collections Committee after 20 years. We will miss her!

the committee, and we happily welcomed new member **Elizabeth Rose**, executive director of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford.

Sustaining the Society: Your Generosity Supports the Community's Needs

Windsor Historical Society is a community organization, and financial support is one way that our members and the public tell us that we are serving them well. The Society has long benefitted from generous members and donors, and this fiscal year was no exception. Committed donor support strengthened the 100th Anniversary Fund which had begun the previous year, and these important funds enabled the Board and Centennial Committee to think big when planning for the Society's birthday and related community events. Generous individual contributions through annual donations, memberships, and events like the Tag Sale Fundraiser provided badly needed support for Society programs and services at a time when school field trip and admission revenues were down because of the pandemic. Financial support and grants from the Town of Windsor, Connecticut Humanities, and our forgivable federal Paycheck Protection Program loan also provided important support during this fiscal year.

The Society continues to benefit from a dedicated Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and independent auditor that all work to ensure that our endowment and financial resources are well managed, appropriately invested, and administered according to generally accepted accounting principles. As this fiscal year ended, the Board of Directors approved an operating budget for the upcoming year designed to maximize resources to best serve the community by establishing two new staff positions. The Community History Specialist position was established to engage the Windsor community in collecting and sharing oral histories and other historic resources, and the old Education and Outreach Manager position was transformed into the new Program Director position to oversee education programs, public programs, and serve as assistant director for museum operations. These positions are expected to serve an important role in centennial and community engagement programs in the coming fiscal year.

Looking Ahead to the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year ended with the Centennial Committee forming a bold plan to engage the Windsor community in a celebration of its own history as well as ours. Community-wide events were planned for August through October, and a celebratory birthday bash was planned for September 1, 2021, the Society's 100th birthday. Readers will need to stay tuned to next year's annual report to find out how it all ended, as we closed out our first 100 years and began "stepping into the next century together!"

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Randy McKenney

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Sulema DePeyster

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Kristen Wands

Educator and Outreach Manager

John F. Mooney IV

Librarian/Archivist

Michelle Tom

Facilities Coordinators

Terence Bagby

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Activities for the year ending June 30, 2021

Change in net assets without donor restrictions

Operating revenues and other support:	
Contributions and grants	\$ 73,749
Fundraising events	8,837
Programs, admissions, and publications	1,899
Interest and dividend income	19,223
Membership	10,427
Store sales	10,518
Net assets released from restrictions	313,319
Total operating revenues and other support	<u>437,972</u>
Operating expenses:	
Program services	262,354
Supporting services	78,476
Fundraising services	40,038
Total operating expenses	<u>380,868</u>
Income from operations:	57,104
Other changes in net assets without donor restrictions	
Paycheck Protection Program	42,514
Net realized and unrealized gains	182,226
Depreciation	(28,050)
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	<u>253,794</u>

Change in net assets with donor restrictions

Contributions and grants	23,310
Interest and dividend income	222,772
Net realized and unrealized gains	1,210,619
Net assets released from restrictions	(313,319)
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	<u>1,143,382</u>
Total change in net assets	1,397,176

..... COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Tag Sale & Event Volunteers

Debbie Baker
Faith Barile
Florence Barlow
Bob Bell
Sharon Bellinger
John Berky
Linda Bernstein

Marilyn Boehm
Nikki Brenner
Kaleitha Brown
Emily Buckley
Layla Buckley-Rodriguez
Barry & Ruth Budlong
Liz Burke
Sarah Cassidy

Kathy Carroll
Lea Chayes
Ashley Coleman
Daniel Crittenden
Eileen Curley
Brennah Dallaire
Barbara Davis
Ciara Doyle

Ruth Fahrbach
Maureen Fernandes
Rene Fitzsimonds
Priscilla Ford
Hunter Fortier
Isabella Gagne
Randy Graff
Alison Gorman
Tom Gorman
Jenny Hawran
Matt Hellman
Marcia Hinckley
Gladys Jackson
Ruth Jefferis
Claudette Johnson
Catherine Johnston
Enita Jubrey
Mary Kelling
Heidi Kelsey
Roseann Lemkey
Amelia Levesque
Joan Lynch
Marsha Mason
Liz McAuliffe
Kenneth McGraw
Randy McKenney
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Joyce Morin
Silvia Munoz-Lopez
Willia Nemetz
Shayne Newell
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Steve Porcaro
Iniya Raja
Elaine Roberts
Mason Sanders
Addison Shaffer
Carol Ann Stephenson
Walt Stevenson
Stephanie Stone
Barbara & Fred Tanguay
Peter Tappenden
Aniya Thompson
Laura Toal-Jamroga
Jim Trocchi
Maureen Vagnini
Cameris Vargas-Edmonds
Brittany Wallace
James Welsh
Anne Wheeler
Dawn Whitney

Bonnie Wind
Colette Yeich

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Dorothy Ball
Donna Baron
Marianne Curling
Kevin Ferrigno
Karen Parsons
Elizabeth Rose

Finance Committee

Martin McMahon, Chair
John Berky
Tim Connolly
Thomas Gilmartin
Thomas Gorman
Randall Graff
Agnes Pier, ex officio
Mark Walker

Grounds Volunteers

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Gordon & Betsy Kenneson
Walt Stevenson
Dave Pugliese & Talcott Resolution
Jim Trocchi
Town of Windsor
Windsor Garden Club

Nominating/Governance Committee

Florence Barlow
Bob Bell
Liz Burke
Randy McKenney
Agnes Pier, ex officio
Jim Welsh

Museum Volunteers

Ken Anderson
Bob Bell
Elaine Brophy
Liz Burke
Lea Chayes
Deb Dusseault
Ruth Fahrbach
Bill Harris
Rob Hoskin
Coralee Jones

Mary Kelling
Betsy & Gordon Kenneson
Marsha Mason
Dorothy McAllister
Donna Myers
Ed Paquette
Iniya Raja
Ellye Rosenberg
Nanci Scully
Barbara Tanguay
Jim Trocchi
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, 2020 and June 30, 2021. 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 Walter Becker
Estate of Gordon Ulmer

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Eugene Bissell
Liz & Jim Burke
Connecticut Humanities
Marcia & Sam Hinckley
Robert & Dorothy McAllister
Mike & Lu Rabbett
Town of Windsor
Windsor Federal Savings & Loan

\$500 to \$999

John Bainbridge
Christine Ermenc & William Hosley
Ruth Fahrbach
Skip & M.K. Fisher
Randall Graff
Griffin Industrial Realty
Sue & Donald Joffray
Colleen Olson
Peter & Lisa Souza

\$250 to \$499

Dorothy Ball
 John & Marjory Berky
 Joseph & Theresa Breen
 Elaine Brophy
 Col. Edward Brown
 Barry & Ruth Budlong
 Bruce & Eugenia Burnham
 John & Linda Carmon
 Robert Conway
 Tim & Janet Ellsworth
 Thomas Foster
 Albert Ilg
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 Susanne Paradis
 Alice & Richard Patton
 Agnes M Pier
 Duane Reyhl
 Douglas Shipman
 Ian & Jennifer Thrall
 Jim Trocchi
 Susan & Allan Viner
 Diane & Gary Whitney
 Eliot & Susan Williams

\$100 to \$249

Judy & Dominic Albano
 Lynn Alexander
 Nancy & Skip Alford
 Lynne Allen
 Robert & Jane Bell
 Bruce & Cathy Bernstein
 Alton Blakeslee
 Al & Marilyn Boehm
 Edward & Maryanne Bulewich
 Kathleen Carroll
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 Leo Graywacz

Paul Green
 Anthony Griego
 Mark Griffin
 James & Judi Hayden
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 Leonard & Betty Hellerman
 Estate of Gertrude Hotchkiss
 Barbara & Cdr. C.G. Ivey
 Andrew & Claudette Johnson
 Heidi & Tom Kelsey
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 Evelyn King
 Allen & Judith Kronick
 Charles Larson
 Genevieve Lattimer
 Richard Liebler
 Edward Lukstas
 Endres Mac Campbell
 Janet Mack
 Jim & Kathi Martin
 Joe McAuliffe
 Willa Nemetz
 Jenifer Noble
 Michael & Denise Novak
 Sarah & Robert O'Brien
 James Oswald
 Lon & Jane Pelton
 Margaret & John Quigley
 Sharon Rispoli
 Joanne Roach
 Sarah Scott
 Dale & Judy Smith
 Walter Stevenson
 Howard Stoner
 Barbara & Chris Strong
 Lee Tryon
 Jane Tuttle
 James & Mary Beth Welsh
 Wilson Paint & Wallpaper Center, Inc.
 Wolcott Family Society
 Susan Zorro

Gifts under \$100

Richard P. Abramowitz
 Susan Abramowitz
 Janet & Adrian Atkins
 David Baram
 John Bednarz
 Sharon Bellinger
 Holly Beum
 Edward & Carolyn Bogus
 Laura Soll Broxterman &
 Paul Broxterman

Marie Bruhn
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Plaque in the lobby of CT Historical Society.
Photo by Michelle Tom.

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the family's plot in Cedar Hill Cemetery. We know that in the years following Charles' death that George stepped into the role of public historian and shared their collection and resources, the "gifts of Charles and George Hoadley" (per the bookplate), widely and generously. We know that somewhere between 1885 and 1887 Stedman's family erected a monument in their plot, which was also in Cedar Hill, in the section adjacent to the Hoadley's.

Courtesy of the *Hartford Courant's* "City News in Brief" section, we know that on December 22, 1911, George "at his home on Fern Street yesterday picked a number of

blooming dandelions." In 1921, he gave Windsor Historical Society 320 volumes, 186 pamphlets, and 175 miscellaneous gifts, a huge amount for the Society, but which was only a tiny pittance compared to what he gave to other institutions. And finally, for now at least, we know that in an autobiographical account, Charles chose to conclude the listing of his professional accomplishments and associations with the short sentence, "He never married."

It really is a lovely bookplate.

Oral History Spotlight: Frank Peters

This is a regular column for the one-on-one oral history interviews conducted by Sulema DePeyster, our Community History Specialist. Each article features the story of a Windsor resident and provides highlights from the interview, giving readers an inside look into the discussion that took place.

Born on December 17th, 1924, to Frank and Ann Peteroski, Frank Peters is a longtime Windsor resident and World War II veteran. For the first few years of his life, he and his family lived on Park and Broad Streets in Hartford. When he was four years old, they relocated to a home that his father built on Mack Street – only a short distance away from the notable Mack Brickyard.

Frank grew up alongside the nine children of Edward and Faye Mack, and he referred to Mack

Street as one big family. He enjoyed playing a variety of sports as a child, including baseball, football, and soccer. He attributes his short stature to his lack of interest in basketball growing up.

In his youth, he attended H. Sidney Hayden School, which previously stood on Bloomfield Avenue. One early memory he shared involved riding his tricycle from Windsor to Hartford by himself when he was around eight years old to visit his cousin George. His daughter, Susan, referred to the story as a family favorite. He recalls:

"I beat even my aunt to going to work because she worked around Sage Allen's near Fox's. She worked there and I'm down in the [street] just coming back from my trip. I'm going 'George! George!' He's on the second floor. And then I think my aunt looked out [and said] 'That's Sonny out there with his bike!' She said, 'What's he doing here?' She didn't



Frank Peters in his Marine uniform circa 1944.
All photos courtesy of Frank Peters.

even go to work yet, so I made good time [laughs]. But [I went] all through North Hartford and all the way down past the Fox's and the Hog River and Hartford Market and all the way to

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Charter Oak Avenue and then Charter Oak Place."

Frank first began working at the Mack Brickyard at around the age of 14 due to its close proximity to his home. His role involved shoveling clay, which he believes was one of the toughest jobs to do. He also described the entire process of brickmaking during the late 1930s and early 1940s. At that point, mixing machinery replaced the labor of horses.

In addition to making bricks, Frank also delivered bricks to several locations in the Greater Hartford region, including the Phoenix Insurance Company that still stands today. Overall, his work at the Mack Brickyard was demanding and far from being clean, with brickmakers wearing shorts because they were constantly covered in water and wet clay. Even so, he enjoyed the work and returned to the Mack Brickyard several times throughout his adolescent years.

By the time he was 16 years old, Frank had already enlisted in the Marines. On August 21st, 1943, he embarked aboard his very first ship in Norfolk, Virginia – the *USS Monrovia*. From then on, he traveled to various locations including the Marshall Islands in 1944, where he fought in the Battle of Kwajalein.

As a corporal in the 4th Marine Division, Frank also fought against Japanese forces in Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. He recounted several of his experiences from these islands, including a harrowing encounter with a sniper in the sugar cane fields

of Tinian. Only a few moments after disembarking an amphibious combat vehicle, Frank and his unit were suddenly in danger.

"We're walking around all nice. All of a sudden, we went past a machine gun. They start spraying the sugar field. I said, 'Oh, boy. We're in for it.' As far as I got into the sugar field was the first row. [...] And I put my chin in the ground and put on the steel hat, which was going to help me like hell. I've seen bullets go right through that helmet."

Frank still remembers hearing bullets hit the dirt beside him. One bullet hit his squad leader, who was placed on a Red Cross ship for medical treatment. Unfortunately, this same squad leader later perished in a shell explosion that also took the lives of several others.

"We knew it was going to blow because there were so many shells ready to fight for that night. [...] I was running as fast as I could and getting the hell out of there. So I told everybody walking this way. I said, 'You better get out of here. That place is going to blow.' So it did. It blew and man it leveled everything over there. And when I went back, the only thing I saw was a hip from here to the boot. That's all I saw. [...] The boot was still on, and I didn't know who it was."

In the aftermath of this tragedy, several of Frank's peers began to suffer mentally from the loss of their friends. It was for this reason that Frank recalls being frequently told not to get too close to any of the other Marines.

After leaving Iwo Jima at the end of the war, Frank briefly stayed at his base in Maui before eventually



Frank Peters and his squadron in Iwo Jima, 1944

returning to Windsor. He and his family hugged for hours once he got back home, as they were unable to communicate with each other for long periods of time while Frank was in battle. Four years after his return, Frank was diagnosed with tuberculosis, which he believes to be a consequence of the war. He was an inpatient at the VA hospital in Newington for over a year and was disabled upon his release. For the next two years, he stayed in Florida with his family to recover.

Frank was 27 years old when he first got married. He went on to have three daughters and raised a stepson with his wife Lillian. He worked at the Emhart Corporation for 25 years until his eventual retirement in 1986. Today, Frank Peters is 97 years old and still resides in the home that he bought in Windsor in 1953. He is constantly surrounded by family, and he continues to radiate a sense of liveliness.

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.

Wednesday, April 27, 6 to 8 PM

WHS Centennial Appreciation Gala at L.P. Wilson Community Center

Join friends and family and take a bow as Windsor Historical Society expresses a heartfelt "thank you" to all who made the recent Centennial so successful! If you served on the Centennial Committee, volunteered at an event, shared your Windsor story, or just want to join in saying "thank you," this event is for you! Enjoy refreshments, a photo slideshow, and a special showing of selections from the 56 Windsor stories that people shared during the Centennial. We hope you'll join us!

Free.

Thursday, May 5, 5:30 to 7 PM

Genealogy Support Group is back in person!

In Windsor Historical Society research library. Just starting to research your family tree? Experienced but stumped? Want to try out Ancestry.com? This

informal gathering of fellow researchers engages in lively discussion and problem solving. Face masks required until further notice.

Free.

Thursday, June 2, 5:30 to 6:30 PM

Virtual Genealogy Support Group

Just starting to research your family tree? Experienced but stumped? This informal gathering engages in lively discussion and problem solving. Register in advance at windsorhistoricalsociety.org for Zoom link.

Free.

Saturday, June 11, 11 AM to 4 PM

Connecticut Open House Day

Stop by Windsor Historical Society to celebrate the beginning of the summer season and enjoy our great exhibits, historic homes, and more! Visit our special exhibit *100 Years of Windsor Historical Society*, and our gift shop chock full of Windsor gifts, local history books, and our large selection of Black, Latinx, and Indigenous history books. Admission is free for all for this special one-day event!



Saturday, June 18, 10 AM to 4 PM

Windsor House Tour

A striking selection of beautifully and creatively furnished historic Windsor residences will be open for public touring. See homes from several centuries built in a variety of architectural styles.

Advance tickets \$35; day-of-tour tickets \$40. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Society at 860-688-3813 or at windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 to 8 PM

Family Histories and You!

Have you or someone in your family started gathering your family history? Are you a beginner or an experienced

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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

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

EDUCATION & EVENTS

Ann Beaudin, Bob Bell, Kaleitha Brown, Liz Burke, Eileen Curley, Cindy Daniels, Ciara Doyle, Mary Kelling, Gordon Kenneson, Judy Locker, Marsha Mason, Roberta Merrigan, Barbara Tanguay, and Jim Trocchi

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Winter Events Register for any of these programs at windsorhistoricalsociety.org, call us at 860-688-3813 or email us at info@windsorhistoricalsociety.org. Genealogy Support Group and Senior Center Events are free.

genealogist? All will enjoy this special program at Windsor Historical Society featuring acclaimed genealogist Sandra Taitt-Eaddy and a fascinating discussion of the importance of our family histories. Indoor/outdoor event with cocktails and brief WHS Annual Meeting.

Rain Date: June 23. Public welcome! Free.

Thursday, July 7, 5:30 to 7 PM
Genealogy Support Group

Meet in person in our research library. Just starting to research your family tree? Experienced but stumped? Want to try out Ancestry.com? This informal gathering of fellow researchers engages in lively discussion and problem solving. Face masks required until further notice.

Free.

Exploring Windsor's Black History

Wednesday, July 20, 12 to 1:30 PM
Exploring Windsor's Black History: Reconstructing the Past

Brown bag lunch conversations. Join researcher Marcia Hinckley and Society staff for a lively in-person discussion focused on how we know about Windsor's earliest Black residents. Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided.

Free.

Wednesday, August 10, 12 to 1:30 PM
Exploring Windsor's Black History: Work and Play

Brown bag lunch conversations. Join researcher Marcia Hinckley and Society staff and participate in a lively in-person discussion focused on growing up Black in Windsor. Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided.

Free.

Thursday, July 28, 7 to 8:30 PM
Windsor in the World of Colonial Wine

Drink and learn! Enjoy wine samples as award-winning historian and educator Jennifer Regan-Lefebvre highlights wine consumption in colonial Windsor and the surprising role that the wine trade played in binding together the 18th-century British Empire.

Over 21 only. Register in advance at windsorhistoricalsociety.org or 860-688-3813. \$10 adults, \$7 WHS members and seniors.

Thursday, August 4, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Virtual Genealogy Support Group

Just starting to research your family tree? Experienced but stumped? This informal gathering engages in lively discussion and problem solving. Register in advance at windsorhistoricalsociety.org for Zoom link.

Free.

Wednesday 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!

At Senior Center. Free.

Saturday, August 20, 10 to 11:30 AM
Eat Your Medicine But Please Don't Eat the Daisies

Popular horticulturist Gordon Kenneson returns with another fascinating and humorous herbal medicine program. Held outdoors by the Society's kitchen garden, learn about growing, harvesting, and using herbs and vegetables in a historical setting.

\$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 WHS members. Rain Date: August 27.

Special Programs for Kids!



Saturday, May 14, 11 AM to 2 PM
Fishing for Fun!

No bones about it – it's time for some shad-themed fun! Children pre-K to grade 5 will enjoy fin-tastic outdoor activities including fishing for prizes, shad painting, shad cooking demonstration, and more! COVID restrictions will be observed as appropriate.

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

Mon - Fri., July 11-15, 9 AM to 12 PM
Hands-On History Summer Children's Program

Children entering grades 3-5 will enjoy a week of learning and fun, filled with interactive exploration as they expand their knowledge of Windsor's History while building critical thinking skills. Daily activities include experiencing the life a colonial child, exploring ancient paths, mapping family histories, surveying modern-day lands, and much more.

Advanced registration required: \$100 per child for the full week. Register at windsorhistoricalsociety.org