

Chronicles

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SUMMER 2022

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Oral History Spotlight: Delia Jubrey

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

Delia "Dee" Sales Jubrey was born in 1938 to Douglas Willard Sales and Marion Scott Sales. For most of her childhood, Delia lived in a two-room home on William Street in Windsor with her parents and two older sisters, Barbara and Patricia. She enjoyed growing up in this neighborhood, which she described as quiet and inhabited primarily by Black families. Many of Delia's relatives lived close by on Cook Hill Road. She attended John Fitch School and H. Sidney Hayden School. During her second year at Windsor High, Delia and her family relocated to a new home in Hayden Station. She was often one of the only students of color in her classes and extracurricular clubs, which included the Tunxis Business Board and the Library Club.

"As far as growing up and going to school, no qualms. I knew I wasn't

L to R: Delia Jubrey, Barbara Sales Trahan (sister), Dorothy Sharp Scott (grandmother), and Patricia Sales Narcisse (sister) | All photos courtesy of Delia Jubrey.

going to the Sadie Hawkins dance. [laughs] There's just things you know that [as] an African American, you knew you weren't going to certain things. [...] Not that there wasn't any kind of racism or whatever, but it was subtle. You know what I mean? We all got along."

Despite her general sense of camaraderie with her white peers, Delia recalled two separate incidents in which a fellow student called her a racial slur. The first incident took place at H. Sidney Hayden, and she still remembers a teacher taking both her and the other student aside.

(continued on page 4)

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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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

The Road to Inclusion

Two years ago I reported to you on the beginning of our work to become a more inclusive organization. As you may recall, that was shortly after the murder of George Floyd which, like injecting fuel into a carburetor, had ignited widespread anger and accelerated people's commitment to shaping a more just society. At that time I committed to you that "after the fuel is spent, after the carburetor begins to sputter and some people's commitment to racial justice stalls, Windsor Historical Society will continue its work to become the inclusive organization that this community deserves." Well, here we are two years later and, while many Black Lives Matter banners have been taken down across the country, we are still earnestly pursuing our vision of being first in our region to center our history and culture on the lives of racially and ethnically diverse members of our community.

How so, you might ask? Some examples...

Inclusion training for board and

staff. Not only have our Board of Directors and staff begun to more closely reflect the Windsor community, we are now working with two diversity, equity, and inclusion trainers to better understand what diversity, equity, and inclusion really means for us,

as well as what that will look like for our organization, and how we can achieve this. This work will continue and eventually include committee members, volunteers, and others to help move our collective mission forward.

New, more inclusive bylaws.

Re-shaping the organization's structure is one of our strategic plan goals and is also a way to shift the Society's operations to become more inclusive. Updating our bylaws, which may seem fairly ho-hum to some, is a critical part of this. Bylaws spell out how our organization will operate. In May, the Board of Directors adopted new bylaws that include things like term limits, which will require the Society to continually seek new and diverse community members to lead the organization. The new bylaws also affirm the Board of Directors' role in governing the organization, confirming what has essentially been our practice for many years and removing the requirement for a membership vote to confirm Board officers. While the Society will continue to maintain its strong membership program with newsletter and member benefits, these changes will help make the Society more accountable to the Windsor community by clearly placing the power to govern in a Board of Directors that more closely reflects today's Windsor residents.

New and updated exhibits. Society staff are working with members of the Windsor community to update our existing permanent exhibition to include people and history that has been left out of

our Windsor narrative. Stories of Black and brown Windsor residents specifically, in both the colonial and modern history galleries, will help visiting families and school children understand the town's history more fully. Early next year we will also open a new exhibit in the Chaffee House featuring the story of the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association (WAACA). We've been working on this with community members for almost two years through oral histories and collecting, and we are excited to share this important story!

Community engagement to shape future programs. This spring we convened the Chaffee House Exploratory Committee to examine

more engaging uses of this venerable old mansion. We have been leasing this house from the Town of Windsor for decades, and in the past offered it as a place to learn primarily about the lives of the white Chaffee family. Last year we reopened the house with new exhibits and interpretation that featured the Black residents of the home as well as a broader story of the region's Black history. The committee, comprised of a wide range of community members, will help us explore new, more innovative and inclusive ways to use this space to collect and share Windsor's diverse stories. We do not vet know what the committee will recommend, but we are excited about the direction this may take us

and the new ways we will be able to use this house to "do history more inclusively."

...and there is much more. The road to inclusion is a long one, and not always a straight one. Sometimes it doubles back on itself. Sometimes we take two steps forward and one step back. But we continue moving down the road and, thanks to your steadfast support, generosity, and love for Windsor's history, we are continuing to make progress. We are becoming a more inclusive organization.

Thanks to you!



(continued from page 1)

"The only time I had any problems with prejudice was the darn kids at the school, and I remember one day, [at] the school behind the senior center that's not there anymore, me and this young lady. A teacher appeared because she said the n-word to me, and she took us up to the room and she reprimanded the young lady. And then in high school, a white boy came up with the same thing."

After graduating from Windsor High School in 1956, Delia began working at Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance in Hartford. She married James Jubrey the following year and moved to Enfield where they raised their four children. When her youngest son was 5 years old, she returned to work as a maid for a pathway home in Windsor Locks. Two years later, she became a secretary for Hamilton Standard, a small airplane manufacturing company located at Bradley Field.

Her work as a secretary for Northeast Utilities (now Eversource) started in 1972 and continued until 1997. As someone who is eager to learn, Delia enjoyed the introduction of new technology during this time.

"The electric typewriter came into play, so the boss came over to me. I loved learning things, and I started typing away. When the electric typewriter came, oh my God! [laughs] And then later on in the 80s, [when] the computers came into play, I was all excited."

She later retired from Kelly Services after 12 years of employment, which involved placements in

locations such as Konica Minolta and the post office. "Kelly Services [was my favorite job]. You know why? Because there was variety. [...] I enjoyed working over at Hamilton, believe it or not, because it fascinated me. [W]hat fascinated me about Hamilton is that minds created this – for planes to fly."

Many Windsor residents may be familiar with Delia, but some may not know about her great passion for researching her ancestry.

She has been deeply committed to uncovering the extent of her extraordinary family history for the past 30 years. During our interview, Delia provided a glimpse of this process by sharing a series of binders used to store the resources she has collected. We discussed the current state of her research and what she hopes to learn more about in the future.

Delia first began her genealogical journey in 1991, with a special interest in the life of her fourthgreat-grandfather, Thomas Sharp. Unlike many Black Americans, who often face challenges with genealogical research earlier than the mid-nineteenth century, Delia can trace her lineage back to the year 1782: Thomas Sharp's birth year. "[He] supposedly was 85 years old when he died," she said. "He was a fugitive slave from New York. I'm saying New York because I heard that he swam part of the Hudson River [to get to Connecticut]. So I don't know if that's true or not." Thomas Sharp reported New York as his birthplace in both the 1850 and 1860 censuses. However, it is possible that he was originally born in the



1855 map highlighting Thomas Sharp's land in the area of Windsor then known as Turkey Hills, which eventually became a part of East Granby.

South and listed New York to avoid being recaptured.

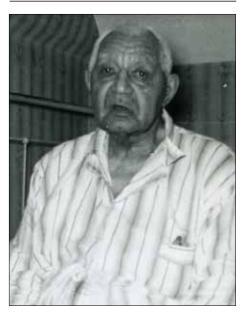
Once Thomas Sharp arrived in Windsor, he began working for Abel and Chloe (Moore) Griswold. This is where he met their daughter, Wealthy Griswold, a white woman whom he went on to marry in 1826. Despite the absence of antimiscegenation laws in Connecticut, it is still important to note how rare this story is. The Griswold family had a strong political influence in both New York and Connecticut that began in the 1600s with the arrival of half-brothers Edward and Matthew Griswold of England.

Edward Griswold settled in Windsor in 1639 and played a significant role in the early politics of the town. He is also Wealthy Griswold's fourth-great-grandfather. Several descendants of Edward and Matthew Griswold went on to build a massive fortune, and others became notable political figures, including Matthew and Roger Griswold, the 17th and

22nd governors of Connecticut respectively. Essentially, Delia is distantly related to one of the most prominent families in Connecticut history.

Thomas and Wealthy Sharp settled in Turkey Hills, East Granby, and had six children together. Only three survived into adulthood – Seth Thomas, Nancy, and William. When asked about how the residents of East Granby may have responded to Thomas and Wealthy's relationship, given the historical context of slavery at the time, Delia responded:

"I feel they were respected – both of them, the family. Because they were all farmers. [They] lived on Spoonville Road in East Granby. [...] Like the article said, I don't think there [were] that [many] problems because they were farmers." The article Delia refers to is a book entitled East Granby: The Evolution of a Connecticut Town that mentions Thomas Sharp by name. The



Seth Carroll Sharp Jr., great-grandfather of Delia and grandson of Thomas Sharp and Wealthy Griswold, 1950s

excerpt details the concerns of East Granby residents about formerly enslaved people such as Thomas and how the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 may affect them.

"There were at least eighty-two blacks in Granby at the time, and suddenly the people of Turkey Hills must have thought: 'Does the government expect me to help arrest my neighbors like Thomas Sharp who has lived here for twenty years?' Men who had dealt with slavery only on an intellectual level now faced it on a personal level."

Thomas Sharp remained in East Granby until he died in 1861. Wealthy Sharp continued to live there until her eventual passing in 1873. Although there are no marked graves with their names at East Granby Cemetery, Delia believes that this is the only logical place where Thomas and Wealthy could be buried.

Delia descends from Seth Thomas, the oldest son of Thomas and Wealthy. He married Jane Carroll in 1857 and had eight children, including Seth Carroll Sharp Jr. This is Delia's great-grandfather whom she believes lived on Hazelwood Road in East Granby. Both Seth Sr. and Seth Jr. followed in Thomas's footsteps by becoming farmers, with Seth Jr. in particular growing tobacco. Delia does not know which crops Thomas and Wealthy grew on their farm.

Seth Carroll Jr. married Delia Almira Babcock, Delia Jubrey's namesake, in 1887. Delia's grandmother, Dorothy Sharp, was born in 1874 to Seth Carroll Jr. and Delia Babcock and is one of eight children. She eventually married Edward Scott in 1910.

It is interesting to note that Samuel Scott, Edward's father and another of Delia's great-grandfathers, was a Civil War veteran. In fact, he was a formative member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization that advocated for and represented people who fought for the Union. Samuel Scott was born to an enslaved family in Eastern Point, Virginia. It is reasonable to believe that he joined Union forces to fight for his freedom. After the end of the Civil War, Samuel Scott settled in Enfield where he remained for the rest of his years. He was Enfield's oldest Black resident when he died in 1940 at age 96.

Among Dorothy Sharp and Edward Scott's eight children is Marion Louise Scott, Delia's mother. We now find ourselves in the present, eight generations after the marriage of Thomas and Wealthy Sharp. Delia currently lives in Windsor and has since 2002 after living in Enfield for 40 years.

To this day, Delia continues to investigate her extensive family history and is hopeful that she will find answers to questions that remain unanswered. "Before I go home," she said, "I would like to learn a little bit more about Thomas Sharp." Her greatest wish is to uncover the life of Thomas before he arrived in Windsor.

2022 Windsor House Tour Delights Hundreds

Thanks to a dozen very generous homeowners, over 80 dedicated volunteers, and a hardworking committee led by Ed Paquette and Liz Burke, the 2022 Windsor House Tour was a smashing success! Ticket sales were brisk during the final days leading up to the tour as 86 people took advantage

of the online purchasing option and dozens more bought tickets at the Society or one of our five partner sales sites, bringing total ticket sales to over 190. Along with the scores of volunteers and community partners who received complimentary admissions, between 250 and 300 people circulated among the 12 sites throughout the day, making for a busy time at each property. Between the 37 generous program

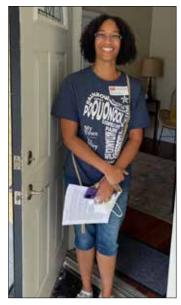
advertisers and strong ticket sales, the house tour grossed about \$10,000 to support Society programs and operations. Thanks to all who helped out!

Didn't get to join us for the house tour but would like a copy of the program booklet? Pick up a complimentary copy at the museum through September 1!



















Thank You!

Homeowners

Colin Ahern & Emily Marino
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Sound Crossing
Dorothy & Nicholas Fillmore
The First Church in Windsor
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Herb Vigo, Keney Park
Sustainability Project
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...and all of our wonderful advertisers and volunteer hosts!

Meet the New Additions to Our Collections Committee

By Michelle Tom, librarian/archivist

We're pleased to welcome two new members to our Collections Committee, Victoria Brown and Anthony Martin! Victoria Brown, who we featured in a recent article about her oral history interview, grew up in Windsor and comes from a long line of Windsor residents. Anthony Martin, PhD, is a professor in the Anthropology Department at CCSU, and he led an archaeological dig on the grounds of the Chaffee House last year. We are excited to have their subject expertise and experience to help inform our decision-making regarding donations to our museum and archives collections.

The Collections Committee, working alongside the curator and the librarian/archivist, meets regularly to review items offered to the Society to determine their appropriateness for our collections.

We are interested in materials that have a direct connection to Windsor and its residents, as it is through objects generously given by donors that we can explore the long and fascinating history of Windsor and can encourage our visitors to do the same.

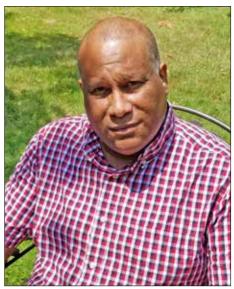
We are especially eager to have Victoria and Anthony aboard as the Society continues our efforts to do history more inclusively, in all aspects of our operations. As we seek to build museum and archives collections that represent all Windsor people, it's critical that those reviewing donations be more representative of today's Windsor.

We look forward to working with you, Victoria and Anthony!

Photos courtesy of Victoria Brown and Anthony Martin.







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, Victoria Brown, Marianne Curling, Kevin Ferrigno, Anthony Martin, and Elizabeth Rose

EDUCATION & EVENTS

Ann Beaudin, 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

FRONT DESK AND ADMINISTRATION

Deb Dusseault, Gordon Kenneson, Joy Lee, Joan Lynch, Marsha Mason, Ellye Rosenberg, Nanci Scully, Barbara Tanguay, Jim Trocchi, and Dawn Whitney

GROUNDS

Becky and Paul Hendricks, Gordon and Betsy Kenneson, Walt Stevenson, Dave Pugliese & Talcott Resolution, Jim Trocchi, the Town of Windsor, and Windsor Garden Club

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Florence Barlow, Liz Burke, Ashley Coleman, Randy McKenney, Doug Shipman, and Michelle Tom

LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Ken Anderson, Elaine Brophy, Cici Chagnon, Ethan Guo, Rob Hoskin, Grace Jeffrey, Iniya Raja

Volunteer Profile: Ethan Guo

In this column, we are featuring one of the invaluable volunteers who supplement and complement the work of our paid staff in so many ways. Ethan Guo is currently a student at Loomis Chaffee School.

How long have you volunteered for WHS, and what inspired you to become a volunteer?

I started volunteering at WHS the spring of my sophomore year in 2021 and have had the pleasure of working on various projects with the Historical Society for a little over a year as of now.

Attending Loomis, one of the things that never fails to amaze me is just how old the Loomis homestead is—supposedly dating all the way back to 1640. I've always held a soft spot for history in my heart and with learning more about the history of Loomis, I became interested in the history of Windsor.

What do you like most about volunteering here?

To me, volunteering at WHS is like filling out the *New York Times*

crossword. While not necessarily the hardest, each new project provides a sense of discovery and problem solving, which I enjoy immensely. Working on the historic houses project, for example, was like piecing together bits of Windsor history through studying the history of houses and their owners.

What have you learned while volunteering here?

I've certainly learned a lot about Windsor history, from its religious history to its role in the Pequot War. More importantly, however, in almost every project that I've been a part of at WHS, I've learned that there is a lot more to a topic than what initially meets the eye. My experience with the Society has, more than anything, taught me to keep an open mind towards everything.

What influenced you to develop an interest in history?

Growing up in Bedford, MA
(sandwiched on either side by
Lexington and Concord) I was
surrounded by stories of colonial
history, which definitely played a
role in my initial interest. However,



Photo courtesy of Ethan Guo.

I believe the reason I continued to enjoy history even after moving to Connecticut is because of all the stories that I could find throughout its pages.

Do you have any advice for someone interested in volunteering but might be hesitant about getting started?

Many volunteers have already said this but the staff at WHS are incredibly nice and supportive and will never leave you hanging. Moreover, WHS stays fairly active around town so there are always projects that you can help with.



Join Us on September 1st for Our 101st Birthday Bash!

What could be better than turning 100? Turning 101, of course! Join us on Thursday, September 1, from 6 to 8 PM for a festive celebration and a final viewing of our 100 Years of Windsor Historical Society exhibit. And yes, like newlyweds we froze the top layer of our incredible 100th birthday cake. Come see it one last time and share in some special birthday cupcakes, a few surprises, and many good friends. See you there!

Coming this fall! Our new exhibition: Puritans, Polkas, and Pop: Music in Windsor

We plan to showcase music in our town, from its Puritan roots straight through to the present. The exhibit will feature music performed in homes, churches, schools, and other public venues. Whether you enjoy a peaceful hymn, a brass band, The Wildweeds, or state troubadour Nekita Waller, Puritans, Polkas, and Pop will have something for you! If you have an artifact, photograph, or recording related to music in Windsor that you'd like us to consider including in the exhibit, please contact curator Kristen Wands, kwands@windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

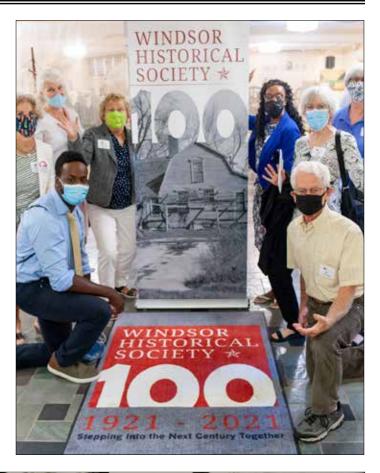
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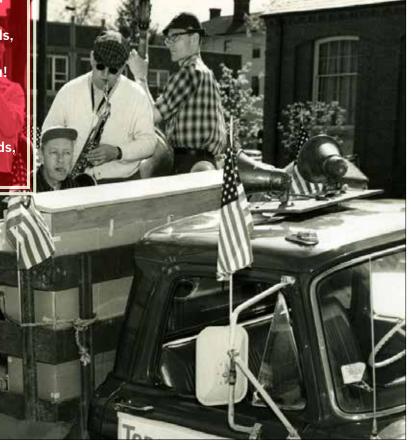
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NDERSON - BEGLEY

and Their

OBACCO VALLEY





Upcoming 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.



Wednesday, July 27, 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. \$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.



Thursday, September 1, 6 to 8 PM Windsor Historical Society's 101st Birthday Celebration!

If you missed the 100th, you can still catch the spirit! Join us for a final chance to view the special 100 Years of Windsor Historical Society exhibit, enjoy some special centennial cupcakes, and share an evening with friends.

Free

Exploring Windsor's Black History



Wednesday, July 20, 12 to 1:30 PM Reconstructing the Past – How we know about Windsor's early Black residents

Join researcher Marcia Hinckley and Society staff for a lively in-person discussion. Explore how we know about the lives of Windsor's Black residents, both enslaved and free, over the past 300+ years, and how their lives and stories connect to Windsor. Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided. Free

Wednesday, August 10, 12 to 1:30 PM Work and play – Growing up Black in Windsor

Join Marcia Hinckley and Society staff and explore what was it like growing up Black in majority-white Windsor and how life in the town has changed over the years. Hear fascinating stories and share some of your own. Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided. *Free*

Thursday, September 8, 5:30 to 7 PM **Genealogy Support Group**

Meet in person at 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.

Free

Upcoming 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.



Thurs. - Sun., October 6 - 9 "Second Hand in the First Town" Tag Sale Fundraiser

At the WHS museum and grounds. Join us to find that perfect gently used household item you've been looking for! From furniture, china, and games to holiday decorations and the "almostantique", donated items will be sold to raise vital funds to support the Society's museum programs and operations.

Rain or shine!



Thursdays, Oct 13, 20, 27, 7 to 8:30 PM **Celebrate National Family History Month with Genealogist** Sandra Tait-Eaddy!

This popular three-part virtual workshop provided via Zoom, will focus on African American and Caribbean genealogy.

\$20 per session or \$50 for the entire series

Thursday, November 3, 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 for zoom link.

Free

Thursday, Nov. 10, 9:30 to 11:30 AM Honoring Our Veterans, Sharing Our Memories: Windsor Veteran's Photo Share at Senior Center

Windsor Veteran's Photo Share is a joint program with the Windsor Senior Center and Windsor Historical Society. Windsorarea 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! Contact Michelle Tom at 860-688-3813 or mtom@windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

Free

Thursday, December 1, 5:30 to 7 PM First Thursdays Genealogy Support Group

Meet in person at Windsor Historical Society. 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.

Tuesday, December 6, 4 to 7 PM **Holiday Shopping Night**

Give a little piece of history and experience some for yourself this holiday season at Windsor Historical Society! Stop by from 4 to 7 p.m. for Holiday Shopping Night at the Society's gift shop and bookstore and take advantage of a one-time 15% discount!



Saturday, September 10, 11 AM to 4 PM

Pies, Puddings and Tarts: Second Saturday Hearth Cooking with **Becky Hendricks**

At Windsor Historical Society's Strong Howard House. Prepare a scrumptious colonial dish on the open hearth and bake oven under Becky's expert tutelage. Sample some of the creations, then take yours home. Choose between apple pye, bread pudding, Cheshire pork pye, chicken pye, cranberry taert, Marlborough pudding, pear taert, and pompion pye.

Saturday, November 12, 11 AM to 4 PM **Everything but the Turkey:** Second Saturday Hearth Cooking with Becky Hendricks

At Windsor Historical Society's Strong Howard House. Prepare scrumptious colonial dishes on the open hearth and bake oven under Becky's expert tutelage. Sample each other's creations, then take some leftovers home. Choose between sherried sweet potatoes, sauced apples, carrot pudding, onion pie, wild mushroom pie, sweet potato biscuits, creamed celery with pecans, and applecurrant relish.

Pre-registration required, limit 6 participants, ages 12 and up. Max 2 participants per family. (Note: your registration date determines the order in which you get to pick amongst the selected dishes, so register early!)

Cost for either program: \$55 per person plus estimated \$10-15 food costs

