



<p>PAGES 1 & 3 Grandmother Strong's Quilt <i>by Lynne Z. Bassett</i> A Windsor quilt with strong connections.</p>	<p>PAGES 2 & 3 Gratitude <i>by Christine Ermenc</i> Read the latest Executive Director's Report</p>	<p>PAGES 4 & 5 Adelbert Coe's Changing Cityscape <i>by Barbara Goodwin</i> View our town's ever-changing built environment.</p>	<p>PAGE 8 Greetings! <i>by Michelle Tom</i> Meet our new Librarian/Archivist</p>
--	--	--	---

Grandmother Strong's Quilt

by Lynne Z. Bassett

Lynne Z. Bassett is an award-winning freelance museum curator specializing in costume and textile collections consulting and exhibitions. She is a contributor to a 2016 book, American Quilts in the Industrial Age: 1790-1870, on the collection of the International Quilt Study Center.

Mary Beebe (1759–1834) was born in Salisbury, Litchfield County, in the northwestern corner of Connecticut. In 1781, she married Elisha Strong (1748–1826) of Windsor, a town located on the Connecticut River. Her husband was a successful merchant, descended from one of the original English families of the Connecticut River Valley; the respect for the Strong family was such that they were counted among the gentry, called the “River Gods,” of the region. Mary and Elisha raised eleven children in their elegant house on North Meadow Road on the main road through town. Elisha built the house in 1780 and filled it with prestigious items, including a custom-made desk-and-bookcase, which—like the house—survive to this day. Another survivor is a quilted, embroidered bedcover in the collection of the International Quilt Study Center in Nebraska.

The quilt was purchased from Sotheby's 1994 sale of the collection



Medallion. Mary Beebe Strong. Made in Windsor, Connecticut, circa 1815. Linen with cotton threads, 97"x92". 1997.007.0897. International Quilt Study Center & Museum.

of prominent antiques scholar Nina Fletcher Little. At that time, the quilt was said to have a note written by the maker's great-great-granddaughter, Anna Elizabeth Holbrook, which stated, “1897—This quilt is now 125 years old. Made in grandmother Strong's house.” This note dates the quilt to 1772. The evidence of the quilt itself, however, places it no earlier than the 1810s. The dresses depicted on the embroidered figures clearly

illustrate neoclassical fashion, with narrow skirts and raised waistlines; the men's coats have a cutaway front leading to tails in the back—a fashion that first appeared at the end of the eighteenth century to enable greater ease in horseback riding. Most tellingly, the women's hair, upswept into a bun at the top of the head, was a style fashionable in the 1810s, and one woman in particular is holding a parasol.

(Continued on page 3)

OUR MISSION

We aim to inspire public awareness and appreciation of the diverse peoples, places, and events that contribute to Windsor's evolving history. We preserve and interpret Windsor's historical record through active collecting, research, exhibitions, programs, and communications in the belief that an understanding of history can provide individuals and communities with connections to the past, a sense of belonging in the present, and responsibility for the future.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editorial Advisors: Christine Ermenc, Michelle Tom, Christina Vida

Managing Editors: Michelle Tom and Christina Vida

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruth Fahrbach, *President*

Cathy Amadasun, Bob Bell, John F. Berky, Bernie Caliendo, Mohammed Choudhury, Tim Connolly, Linnea Gilbert, Tom Gorman, Randy Graff, Lisa Haig, Rick Hazelton, Nevin Lescher, Aubrey Loomis, Ed Paquette, Agnes Pier, Sharran Selig Bennett, Mark Walker

Beverly Garvan, *Honorary Director*
Sterling Viets, *Honorary Director*

OUR STAFF

Christine Ermenc, *Executive Director*

Jack Alberti, *Facilities Coordinator*

Walt Stephenson, *Facilities Coordinator*

Michelle Tom, *Librarian*

Christina Vida, *Curator*



Christine Ermenc
Executive Director

Gratitude

By the time this reaches you, a very busy fall season will have come to a close. Administrative assistant Liz Henderson retired in November, and we are searching for her replacement. In late summer, Barbara Goodwin retired and Michelle Tom became our new librarian/archivist. One of the many reasons we hired Michelle was her eagerness to serve visitors. Assisting our many library visitors this fall has helped Michelle come up to speed on our collections; she would welcome a visit from you any time! We completed a marketing plan (you will notice that our newsletter has a new look; please tell us what you think!) and started technology planning. Our busy fall program schedule included a September antiques appraisal afternoon which drew record crowds from all over the state. Ed Nadeau of Nadeau's Auction Gallery and his family donated their time to us that afternoon to appraise peoples' family treasures. I was amazed by the Nadeau family's gift to us and by how patiently our audience members waited to learn more about their family heirlooms.

In October, we opened the Strong-Howard House Keeping Room to capacity crowds, achieving our goal of a "please touch and explore" historic home unique to our region. On opening weekend, Becky Hendricks cooked a chicken, an apple pie, and some roasted root vegetables over the hearth. Hearthside smells in the house were divine! Becky has since been experimenting with baking delicious crusty loaves of bread in our bake oven and was one of the stars of the show on "Forgotten Drinks of

Colonial New England" night as she plunged her red-hot poker into frothy glasses of flip in front of the fire.

A happy group of folks filled a school bus donated by Sterling Viets of Rainbow Bus Lines to listen appreciatively as historian Bev Garvan led them on her third "Ride to Remember" Windsor history bus tour covering Hayden Station, Rainbow, and Poquonock. Our November 20 pre-holiday auction drew a record crowd of 100 people at the Carmon family's beautiful new facilities on Deerfield Road. Generous donations from our membership and community business people and friends plus enthusiastic bidders garnered over \$13,000 for Society operations.

And now as we go into our quiet season, I'm drawing a deep breath and taking stock of where we are institutionally and where we are going. As I do that, I'm realizing how grateful I am to work in a field that's been my passion for almost forty years!

I have been blessed with marvelous colleagues over the years here. Over thirty volunteers like Bev Garvan and Becky Hendricks research Windsor history and assist patrons in our library, staff our reception desk, give tours, work with school audiences, and keep our grounds looking tidy. The auction we recently held could not happen without the involvement of our many multi-talented board volunteers. Ruth Fahrbach, President of the Board, does not like the title of auction chair, but essentially serves that role. We accomplish a great deal for a local historical society and much of that is due to the efforts of our wonderful cadre of volunteers. We will continue to feature volunteer profiles elsewhere in this newsletter.

And then there are my staff colleagues. Jack Alberti, who will be

retiring this winter, joined us in the summer of 2003 as our first facilities coordinator. At the time, he was building contemporary furniture pieces embellished with exquisite marquetry. Those skills and his engineering degree served us well as Jack created our first website and served as its webmaster, worked with our curators on exhibition design and construction, redesigned our lobby and store area, and made sure that all systems involved with our buildings ran smoothly. Jack will be moving to Hadley, Massachusetts.

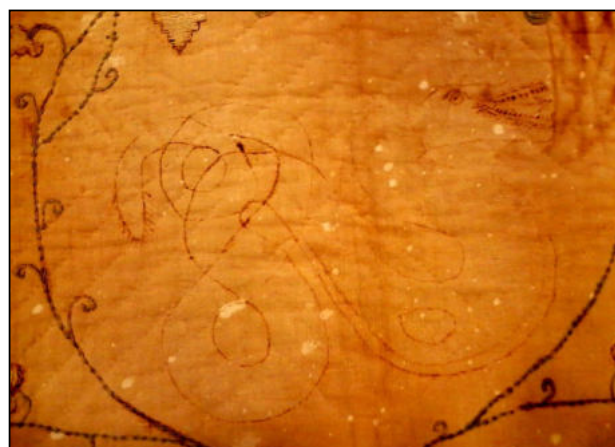
Since 2010, you have come to know curator Christina Vida through her newsletter articles, her work with our school audiences, her brilliant masterminding of the Strong-Howard House project, her contributions to all aspects of operations here at the Society, and her outreach work in the community. Christina begins most days at the Society with a cheery “What do you need from me today?” and always jumps to assist Society staff, volunteers, and visitors with a smile and sometimes a hug. Christina and husband Jason expect their second child in mid-May, when she will be leaving us.

This field attracts wonderful people like our volunteers, like Michelle, Jack, Christina, and Walt Stevenson who job-shares with Jack. We work hard and get exhausted, but our spirits are continually rekindled by the joys of sharing the history of the best community in Connecticut with you. I wish you a New Year filled with such joys!

Christina

Though now badly worn, this quilt is a remarkable and imaginative document of Federal Era New England. Perhaps Mary depicted herself on the quilt, holding the parasol, which would have been a very high-style item in the early nineteenth century. She embroidered it with blue, cream, beige, and brown cotton thread, the uneven color of which suggests amateur dyeing at home. The brown ink outlines of her pattern appear under the deteriorated threads on the plain cotton ground fabric. Mary finished embroidering most of her design, including a family scene as well a winged woman playing with two children. However, at the bottom of the central design field is a twisted serpent with an arrow-tipped tongue that was never embroidered but only outlined in ink; the serpent is surrounded by grapevines and flanked by hunters.

Mary likely duplicated this particular image of a serpent from one of two similar broadsides published in the Connecticut River Valley—one in Suffield, Connecticut, in 1799, and the other in Windsor, Vermont, in 1812, which show the same twisted serpent with flickering tongue. The costume details depicted in other areas of the embroidery indicate that Mary used the 1812 broadside as her inspiration. Its political commentary, in which the snake represented Britain, and the panther symbolized Vermont, encouraged Vermonters to take a stand against their former ruler in the early days of the War of 1812. As a merchant, Elisha Strong would have been seriously affected by the 1806 Non-



Details of IQSC Quilt 1997.7.897 | Photos by Lynne Bassett

Importation Act and Jefferson's Embargo of 1807, followed by the War of 1812—all of which crippled New England's international shipping and mercantile business. We are thankful that this relic survives as a reminder that grandmothers can be feisty in the coziest of ways.

Lynne Bassett is also the curator of the upcoming exhibit, Gothic to Goth: Romantic Era Fashion and Its Legacy, on view at the Wadsworth Atheneum from March 5, 2016 to July 10, 2016.

Adelbert Coe's Changing Cityscape

by Barbara Goodwin

Adelbert Coe (1913–1992) lived on Hayden Avenue in the center of Windsor. He took an avid interest in the changes taking place in his community and documented many of them with his camera. The Society is fortunate to have an extensive collection of his color slides, the images revealing exactly what he witnessed as the decades passed from the 1950s through the 1980s.

The Town of Windsor grew rapidly after World War II, nearly doubling in population between 1940 and 1960. The community experienced the accompanying pressures arising from a need for more housing opportunities, increased public services, and an expanded tax base.

These photos show just a few examples of changes in Windsor's built environment. These structures in Windsor Center were moved or demolished and new buildings rapidly took their place. Today there is an increased awareness of the aesthetic value of the historic landscape and greater efforts are made to consider renovations and adaptive reuse before a building is taken down.

All photographs in this spread taken by Adelbert Coe, from WHS Collections, 1992.42.41 and 1998.12.1





Opposite page, from top to bottom:

1. The Robert Barnes House originally stood at the top of Broad Street Green. It was built by Dr. Alexander Wolcott in 1745. In 1958 it was moved to the Moorlands neighborhood.
2. The new A&P grocery store and shopping plaza was built on the site of the Barnes House in 1958.
3. Twenty-five years later the A&P was remodeled for Arthur Drug.



This page, from top to bottom:

1. Ellsworth & Filley's new commercial building was erected at 164 Broad St. in 1909. It was home to the Masonic Lodge from 1909 until 1954, and also housed a variety of businesses, including Dillon & Lennox canned goods store, Windsor Trust and Safe Deposit Co., The Windsor Barbers, and Linden Jewelers.
2. The building and its next door neighbor were both demolished in 1971.
3. The mini-mall Old Windsor Mall immediately took their place and still stands today.



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, Lynn Kloter Fahy, Kevin Ferrigno, Elena Peters, and Karen Parsons

DEVELOPMENT

Daniel Crittenden

EDUCATION

Harriet Borrielo, Ruth Budlong, Mary Kelling, Marsha Mason, Carlton Parkinson, Barbara Tanguay, and Jim Trocchi

FRONT DESK AND ADMINISTRATION

Wendy Beebe, Deb Dusseault, Sue Gallagher, Bill Harris, Betsy and Gordon Kenneson, Willa Nemetz, Libby Parker, Barbara Tanguay, Jim Trocchi, and Dawn Whitney

GROUNDS

Ruth Fahrback, Laura Jary, and the Town of Windsor

LIBRARY

Elaine Brophy, Bev Garvan, Elena Peters, Betsy Kenneson, Sandy McGraw, and Gail Tinto

PUBLICITY

William Harris, Betsy and Gordon Kenneson, Ruth Fahrback

AUCTION

Thank you to our many auction volunteers!

A Windsor Drum

by Christina Vida

The Brown family of Wintonbury parish in Windsor, now the town of Bloomfield, made bass, snare, and toy drums from around 1809 into the 1850s. Brown drums are well-known to collectors, scholars, and drum corps members. Residents of Bloomfield, CT, are familiar with the drums because a drum and sticks grace many of their street signs, and the town square has a bronze statue honoring these industrious residents. Many museums and drum corps own Brown drums, but until last month, the Windsor Historical Society did not possess one, missing a key piece of Windsor's manufacturing story.

In November, the Society purchased a snare drum in excellent condition, with a printed label on the inside that reads: "William Brown, Drum Manufacturer; has constantly for sale, bass and snare drums, made in the neatest and best manner. –Also – Toy drums of every description. Windsor, (Conn.) 182[5] No. [712]." Visible through the vent hole, this label proves that the Browns made the drum in Wintonbury, which was a district of Windsor until it became the town of Bloomfield in 1835. While Brown drums are not necessarily scarce, finding one in good condition that was made prior to 1835, when the Browns were still technically in Windsor, has taken many years.

William Brown (1802–1825), the son of Benjamin Brown, Jr. (d. 1840), married Thirza Griswold in 1823. She was from Simsbury, and the young couple lived in her hometown. However, the 1824 Grand List for Windsor lists William as a non-resident tax payer of Wintonbury parish living in Simsbury. He owned 11 acres of land in Wintonbury that year and that is probably where his family's drum making business took place. William died in 1825, and his probate inventory includes a large amount of drum making equipment that might have been housed in Wintonbury.

The drum that the Society purchased this year has been in the Coe family for around 150 years and maybe longer. Originally from Madison, CT, their ancestor Dwight B. Coe (1857–1935) was the leader of the Madison Band in the late 1800s and likely used this drum during parades and performances. Two generations later, Adelbert Coe (1913–1992), first of Madison, then of Windsor, treasured the drum and other historic objects, and spent years photographing Windsor's architectural history (see the photo spread on pages 4 and 5). Because the family sold the drum to the Windsor Historical Society, it is now part of the town's shared heritage and is on view in the Society's Windsor history exhibit. Come see this new acquisition to our collection and learn about Windsor's other major industries.



Snare drum | WHS Collections, 2015.56
Photo by Christina Vida

Upcoming events

For more information contact the Society at 860-688-3813 or info@windsorhistoricalsociety.org

January 14, 5 PM to 7 PM

Layers of Home: Exhibit Opening

Windsor High School's Pre-AP Art students have drawn inspiration from the Windsor Historic District to create collages portraying their layers of home. The exhibit will remain on view until March 5th. Come meet the young artists and share your own layers of home. Snow date: January 21.

FREE and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

February 2, 7 PM to 8 PM

The Logbooks: Connecticut's Slave Ships and Human Memory

Come to this thought-provoking presentation by author Anne Farrow who paints a vivid picture of 18th-century Connecticut slave trading using three long-neglected ships' logbooks and other primary sources. Farrow explores the idea that if our history is incomplete, then collectively, we have forgotten who we are. Snow date: February 3.

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

February 15, 10 AM to 4 PM

Presidents' Day Candelidipping

Entertain the family with candelidipping at the Society. Explore our Hands-On-History Learning Center, build toothpick-and-marshmallow structures, explore the totally touchable Strong-Howard House, take a scavenger hunt through our main exhibit galleries, and view the Layers of Home exhibit. Snow date: February 16.

\$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 children, \$3 WHS members, \$12 per family.

February 20, 10 AM to 11 AM

All Aboard: Trains for Kids

Windsor Historical Society's meeting room will be transformed with model railroads and train-oriented play tables. Bob Bell in costume as the Railroad Baron leads the fun. Play with trains, learn some secret train whistle codes, get your own whistle to take home, and more! Appropriate for families with pre-K through grade 3 children. Make your reservation by February 19. Snow date: February 21, 2 PM to 3 PM.

\$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 children, \$3 WHS members

March 11, 7 PM to 8 PM

A Warm Winter Evening At Home with the Howards

Windsor Historical Society's hands-on Strong-Howard House is magical at night. Actors Walter Mantani and Susan Buchholz portraying Captain Nathaniel Howard and his wife Ann will welcome you into their home and show you around. Enjoy hot mulled cider as well as Ann's famous shortbread cookies! Snow date: March 18.

\$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 WHS members and students

March 12 and 13, 1 PM to 4 PM

At Home with the Howards

Take this opportunity to step into the past at Windsor Historical Society's hands-on Strong-Howard House. Drop by and actors portraying Captain Nathaniel Howard and his wife Ann will welcome you into their home and show you around. Sip hot mulled cider and enjoy Ann's famous shortbread cookies! Snow dates: March 19 and 20, 1 PM to 4 PM.

\$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 WHS members and students

April 7, 7 PM to 9 PM

Fourth Annual Shad Derby Trivia Contest

Think you know everything? Test your knowledge at the Shad Derby Trivia

Contest. Teams of up to 6 members (age 21 & up only) can compete during five rounds of questions. The team with the most points wins a gift certificate to a local establishment. Enjoy refreshments along with the friendly competition. Teams must register in advance, space is limited.

\$10 contestants, \$5 onlookers

April 9, 9 AM to 5 PM

Free 1810 Day at Windsor Historical Society

In conjunction with the recent opening of the hands-on Strong-Howard House, come and go for engaging slideshow presentations, demonstrations of furniture-making and hearth-cooking, walking tours, musical presentations, and period food sampling. Visit our website for a full schedule of events.

FREE and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

April 27, 7 PM to 8 PM

Connecticut Homes Through the Centuries: An Architectural History

In preparation for the Historical Society's house tour on April 30, architectural historian William Hosley will talk about how Connecticut's citizens housed themselves from the 17th through the 20th centuries. See how home styles, construction techniques, and social trends evolved.

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

April 30, 10 AM to 4 PM

Historic 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 \$30 adults, day-of-tour tickets, \$35. \$5 discount for tour volunteers.

Greetings from the Library!

by Michelle Tom



It's been a fun first few months here as Windsor Historical Society's new librarian/archivist. I've gotten to learn something new every day, and to that end I want to send out a huge thanks to everyone who has guided me along so far. I especially want to thank to Barbara Goodwin, not

only for doing such excellent work here for over 10 years, wrangling some organization and accessibility into collections that were previously very much hidden, but also for sticking around for my first couple of weeks and imparting a great deal of wisdom about the Society and the town.

To tell you a bit more about me, I am originally from Hayward, CA, in the San Francisco Bay Area. I went to New York University, where I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in film and television production. It may not seem like a very natural progression from there towards archives and library work, but I actually found that I've used my film and tv training quite a bit as an archivist, especially with regard to preservation of audiovisuals, which I love. I went to Simmons College in Boston where I earned my Masters in Library and Information Science, and concentrated on archives

management, and I have since moved around a couple more times, generally to colder and colder locales and older and older institutions.

Windsor's ancient history was especially enticing to me upon first hearing about this position. The two previous organizations I worked at were established in 1951 and 1846, so having the opportunity to dive into 17th century materials and getting to know all the real people who lived and worked here through the centuries has been so incredibly cool. I look forward to continuing to familiarize myself with our collections and learning about the fascinating history of Windsor, as well as forming and sustaining relationships with our audiences and potential audiences.

Feel free to email me directly at mtom@windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

Visit us

Admission is free to browse the Windsor history galleries, the Hands-On-History Learning Center, and the Gift Shop.

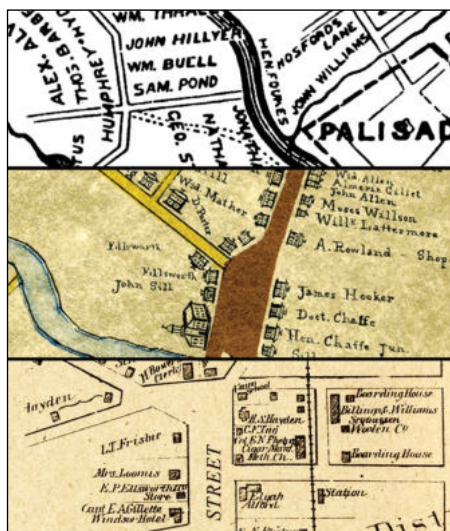
Wednesdays – Saturdays
11 AM – 4:00 PM
closed on major holidays

Tours of Historic Houses
11 AM & 1 PM

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

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

Layers of Home Exhibit Opening



Mark your calendars for the opening of *Layers of Home* on January 15, 2016, from 5 to 7 PM. Students from Windsor High School's Pre-AP

Art class have been analyzing the influence of personal experience on observation as demonstrated by their interpretation of the design elements of local architecture into a fine art piece, which includes visual reference to their walk through Historic Windsor from their own personal perspective. This fall, all the students toured the Palisado Historic District and Palisado Cemetery with curator Christina Vida and teacher Marge Renno. They collected photos on their tour and then spent the rest of the semester creating collages layered with photos, sketches, and maps of Windsor. Some collages are in traditional 2-dimensional design, some are 3-dimensional, and others are photographic. All will be on display starting on January 15th along with student-written labels interpreting their own layers of home. Light refreshments will also be served at this FREE event.