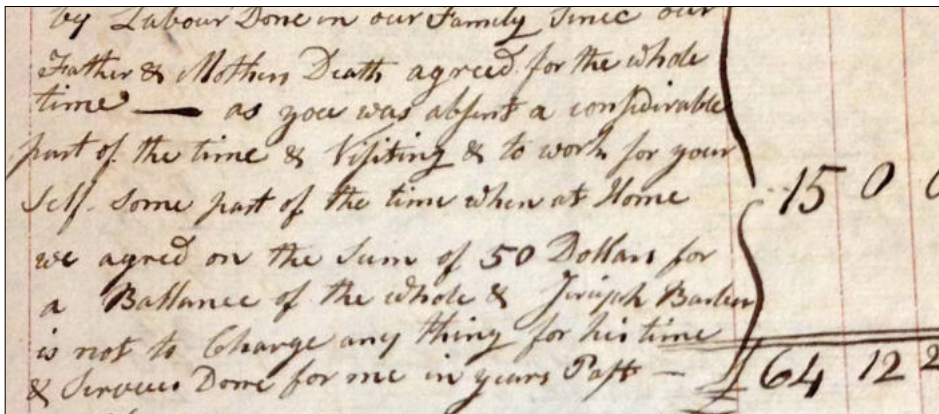




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Rhoda Barber entries in Jerijah Barber Jr.'s account book, 1801-1810. Windsor Historical Society collections, 1970.6.7

Working Women in the Barber Account Books

by Christina Vida, Curator

As a researcher, women are frustrating to follow over time. Often their names change once, or maybe twice, over their lifetime. They do not regularly appear in land records or tax rolls. Many do not leave behind detailed wills and probate papers. Even when we do know of their existence, frequently the only facts we have are birth, marriage, and death dates and the birth dates of their offspring. Being a daughter, wife, and mother were primary roles for early American women. Running a household was a full time job. But what about those years before young women got married and after their children were grown and their husbands were gone? The account books of the Barber family, housed at the Windsor Historical Society since the 1970s, help us shed light on the productive activities of those young women and widows.

The Barbers ran a successful tannery, shoemaking shop, and cider mill along Mill Brook in Windsor, at their homestead on what is now Pleasant Street. In the account books of Jerijah Barber, Sr. (1738-1792) and Jerijah Barber, Jr. (1766-1820) from roughly the end of the American Revolution to the War of 1812, forty women appear in accounts with the Barbers.

Four of these women were immediate family members, Loanna Barber (1744-1793) and her unmarried daughters, Roxanna, Lucina, and Rhoda Barber. After the death of his father, Jerijah Barber, Jr. kept close account of the family's expenditures, even charging his mother and sisters for personal and household purchases. Loanna Barber died only a year after her husband, but her son tracked her purchases of pins, pails, a table cloth, alcohol, chocolate, limes, and even 4 pence paid for a comb. The widow paid

for these items by making thread, saddle cloths, acquiring wool for the family, and finally out of the balance of her estate after her death. Jerijah kept similarly detailed records of his sisters' expenses prior to their marriages. Before she married Cyrus Miller in 1795, Roxanna Barber earned credit by making cloth, purchasing items for her baby sister Rhoda, working for the estate, working for their aunt, Naomi Filley, giving up items she had received as inheritance, and assisting her sister Lucina "doing housework 40 weeks." The bulk of her inheritance was spent on dowry items acquired before her marriage. Lucina Barber's account reads much the same, with



Rhoda Barber Phelps.
Marguerite Elizabeth Mills
Collection, WHS collections,
1986.075.508

(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.

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Christine Ermenc
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Awards & a Snapshot

It was a late-July Saturday and our volunteer guide had called in sick. Promptly at 1 p.m. the doorbell rang. A boy who had loved his third grade "Colonial Life" school visit here had convinced his younger brother and babysitter to come for a tour of our 1810 Strong-Howard House. It's not often that I get to give tours, but I was "it"! We looked at the home's architectural features and talked about the Howard family, then went inside. In the store, the boys were fascinated by the concept of a barter economy. We looked at the account book and quartered coinage together, and tried the weights and scales. It was a hot day, so we tested the fans Captain Howard would have sold. We sat at the dining table, picked at peas and potatoes, and talked about favorite summer foods and winter foods today and back in 1810. They tried out the bed. They thought the bake oven was very much like a pizza oven but wondered how people measured the temperature before thermometers. We had a wonderful time.

Over the summer, the Strong-Howard House project has garnered many awards. We were given the Windsor Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Frank D. Parker Memorial Beautification Award, doubly meaningful since Frank's widow, Elizabeth Parker, is one of our long-time and treasured volunteers. We received the Connecticut League of History Organization's Award of Merit. The Strong-Howard House Guidebook garnered the New England Museum Association's second place award for Educational Publications, Materials and Kits. Then, we learned that the Strong-Howard House reinterpretation project had also won an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AALSH). In

addition to this, AASLH has given us a special History in Progress Award, one of three given this year on the North American continent! This award is given to less than five percent of the national Award of Merit winners, one "whose nomination is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships or collaborations, creative problem-solving, or unusual project design and inclusiveness."

The awards are a tribute to Christina Vida's scholarship and creativity, and to so many of you who helped make our dream a shining reality. Be very proud! Yet, in the end, it all comes down to having a wonderful time like the seven-year-old, nine-year-old, thirteen-year-old, and I had together in the Strong-Howard House on a hot July afternoon.



Chimmie



(Continued from page 1)

May 1799 Contra ... 62^c
 April 16th 1801 by 82 weeks & 1/2 work done before this time at 3/- £12 7 6
 April 16th 1801 Anne Allyn with use the Subscription Compensated
 the above acct & to balance there is due to Betsy Allyn the
 sum of Forty four shillings & 10^c Anne Allyn
 Joseph Barber
 May 24th 1801 by five weeks labor before this time at 3/6 £ 0 17 6
 June by 9 Days work at 3/6 per week - - 5 3
 Li 2^d Book page 7/10 £13 10 3

Betsy Allyn entries. WHS collections, 1970.6.9

the additional credit for interest on loaned notes and £9/2/0 for "labour done for me doing Housework since April 1st 1795 to September 1796 at which time you went to live at Hartland and Granville." Jerijah Barber married Deborah Dexter in 1796, and it is perhaps around this time that Lucina moved to Hartland and then Granville where her older, married sisters lived. Rhoda Barber (1783-1864) remained with Jerijah and his wife in Windsor and also spent time at school in Granby and East Windsor. She earned money from interest, "cash received for your keeping school," and for "labor done in our family since our Father & Mother's death agreed for the whole time – as you was absent a considerable part of the time & visiting & to work for yourself some part of the time when at Home." This last credit was valued at £15 (or \$50) in October 1803 — the month Rhoda married Roger Phelps — for 10 years of intermittent house work. When and where Rhoda Barber taught school is still a mystery, but these accounting notations help paint a picture of a financially secure young woman seeking out work of her own because she could, not out of necessity. Not all women in Windsor were as fortunate.

Widows were in a precarious position in early America. They were not afforded as many property rights as men but still had to make ends meet, oftentimes while raising children. Anna Cook was one such widow

in Windsor who had six mouths to feed after her husband, Elisha, drowned in the Farmington River in 1785. She bought shoes, leather, molasses, hay, and rice from Jerijah Barber, Sr. and paid him back with goods such as sheep, corn, a calf, geese feathers, and tow cloth. She also paid with her son's labor to mow fields and cut brush as well as by paying Barber's bills to other Windsor merchants. Weaving cloth and spinning yarn were regular activities for women in Windsor, and it was also an opportunity to earn money. In 1788 the widow Mary Marshall traded in tow cloth and a small amount of cash for shoes and leather from Barber, Sr., while the widow Ruth Boole settled her 1787 account by "spinning 6½ runs cotton." Her daughter, Ruth Boole Barber, was the widow of Benjamin Barber, and in 1800 paid part of her bill to Jerijah Barber, Jr. by "weaving 23 yards of cloth." Older widows with adult children were frequently more financially secure and did not need to do manual labor. Widow Deborah Dexter (1743-1830), Jerijah Barber, Jr.'s mother-in-law, still had children at home when her husband, a local sawmill owner, named Seth Dexter, died in 1797. She continued the sawmill operations with her eldest son, David Dexter, for a year and later traded calfskins with her son-in-law for leather, shoes, peas, beans, and flax. By keeping accounts of their own, these older widows were able to maintain some level of independence.

Unmarried women in Windsor were similarly free to work, earn money, and help support their families. Eunice Eno (1746-1818), the unmarried daughter of Samuel and Eunice Marshall Eno, made clothing and alterations for Jerijah Barber, Sr. In September and October 1791, she made a jacket and breeches, two great coats, two pairs of "trowsers," and a pair of drawers, altered a coat, vest, and breeches, and worked for three half-days for the Barbers. Her efforts were compensated for with leather, shoes, and remnants of cloth valued at £2/0/10. In 1799, a Mary Kent of Suffield earned only slightly more, £2/9/4, for "12 weeks and 2 days work @ 4 [shillings] pr week." Those three months of wages were most likely for assisting the Barbers with house work. Also in 1799, Jerijah Barber credited Elizabeth (or Betsy) Allyn of Windsor £12/7/6 for 82½ weeks of work for the Barbers, but very little of that was paid in cash. Betsy received most of her payment in the form of shoes, accessories, fabric, and clothing. An Anne Allyn settled Betsy's account with Barber in 1801, implying that Betsy was still a minor at the time, but Betsy Allyn continued to work for the Barbers until 1804.

Most of the young women doing housework for the Barbers received 4 shillings and 6 pence a week for their labor. Most business was conducted in American dollars and cents by the early 1800s, and Jerijah Barber's account book for 1801 to 1812 shows his transition from British to American currency. In 1809, Miss Hannah Holcomb of Windsor worked for the Barbers for 4 weeks and 2 days, at the rate of 4/6 per week, earning a total of \$3.25. By comparison, Barber paid his journeyman, William Loomis 2nd, \$12 per month in the same year. Other women working for the Barbers over the years included Miss Rutha (or Ruthy) Barber, Miss Nancy Dexter, Miss Mary Griffin, Miss Rhoda

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Hosenton, Miss Eleanor Loomis, Miss Roxanna Loomis, Mrs. Sarah Stanley, Esther Thorp, Miss Sarah (or Sally) Thorp, Tirzah Thorp, and Suley Westland, all of Windsor.

Not all the young women in the Barber accounts worked for the family for lengthy periods. Eunice Brown (b. 1781), the daughter of Barber's neighbor Stephen Brown, exchanged her "three days washing" in August 1798 for "cobby plates" and flax, valued at 3 shillings. Seven years later, her younger sister Rebekah (b. 1786) helped with the washing 22 times and made soap for the Barbers for 2 days. For her compensation, Barber gave her 14 pounds of wool valued at £1/8/0. In 1802, Clarissa Cook (b. 1782) brought Barber a 46-pound animal hide, and he paid her 13 shillings

and 5 pence in cash. Miss Laura Griswold (1787-1874) of Windsor was in a different position when she lent Barber £50 (\$166.67) in 1811. In return, she received cash repaid over time, shoes, and fabric. While she later worked in the Barbers' home for two and a half years before marrying Hiram Phelps, how Miss Griswold amassed such an initial sum to lend to Barber is not yet known.

What is known is that these account books provide a wider picture as to how women in Windsor interacted in the community, supported themselves and their families, and contributed to the economic foundations of our town, state, and country. But more research is necessary into the lives and livelihoods of these women. Later

account books from the Barbers should reveal even more names and more types of fiscal interactions. And of course the Society's whole account book collection is much larger and continues to grow. A thorough review of all of it could help us craft a true picture of the lives of working women in Windsor across time and allow us to draw real comparisons to today's female workforce. If you are interested in using the Barber account books, or others, for research, a full listing is available on the Society's website.



Sage Park racetrack, circa early 20th century. WHS collections 1954.2.4.200.

Glory Days of Sage Park

by Michelle Tom, Archivist

"Carried to the park in hundreds of automobiles, carriages, and trolley cars, nearly 6,000 people started gathering at the track before noon and at 1 o'clock, when the first race was scheduled to be called, the grandstand was filled to its capacity and the home stretch was

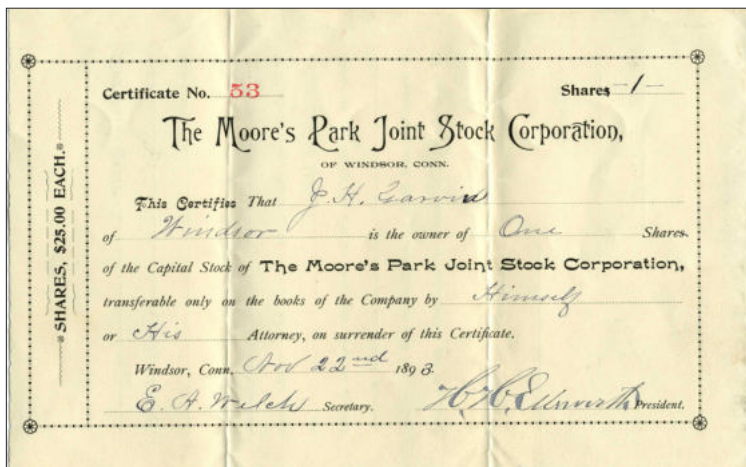
lined with automobiles of every make and description. When the first race was started, the fence on each side of the track was hidden by hundreds of 'railbirds.' Twenty-one heats were battled during the afternoon and the record crowd watched for over six hours while the trotters and pacers fought for supremacy over the memorable twice-around."

- Hartford Courant, July 4, 1917

This quote describes a day at the races during the second year of Sage Park's participation in the Bay State Short Ship Circuit of light harness horse racing. Drivers and owners came to Windsor from all over the northeast and as far away as central Pennsylvania to participate in the trotting and pacing events (terms that describe horses' different gaits). The park had enough stables to quarter over 100 horses, but that was not enough to accommodate all the drivers, horses, and equipment converging upon our little town. The overflow had to find housing in nearby barns and tobacco sheds.

A score card from the day shows the first pacing race had a purse of \$1,000, and scribblings of numbers on the card demonstrate that the original owner was serious about making his fortune that day. It has a deep crease down the middle where it would have been folded to fit in a suit jacket pocket, formal wear being the sartorial choice of horse race spectators.

Twenty-four years before this pinnacle moment in Windsor's racing history,



Moore Park joint stock certificate
WHS Collections,
1998.20.11.1

horse owners lacked a formal track and would race along the normally quiet and residential Palisado Avenue. Enterprising fans thought Windsor ought to have its own racing venue. They formed a joint stock company and Orson B. Moore donated a wood lot south of Capen Street for a park. Considerable effort was made to pull up tree stumps and roots and groom the soil until the grade was absolutely flat. Moore's Park opened to the public in 1893.

During its early years, Moore's Park hosted agricultural fairs while interest in racing waxed and waned. In 1913 the sport picked up in Windsor when Louise H. Sage, a lifelong horse enthusiast (and incidentally, mother of Jerome E. Sage, co-founder of the Sage Allen retail store), renovated the park. She originally assumed the mortgage on the property in 1899, and then leased it to the Free-For-All Driving Club, which made some repairs to the space. It took 14 more years for Sage to decide that the place needed a complete makeover. She arranged to build a new grandstand, new stables, and a track with more precise curves and exactly parallel straightaways. Thanks to her improvements, the track became known as "New England's Greatest Half-Mile Track" (so-dubbed by *The Trotter and Pacer* magazine), and was renamed Sage Park. At the time, the Hartford Courant surmised that Louise Sage was probably the only female sole-owner of a racetrack in the country. Unfortunately she did not live long

enough to experience the heyday of organized light harness racing on her track. After her death in 1916, Windsor farmer and horse owner Fred H. Thrall bought the park.

As demonstrated by the fervor of the 1917 race, Thrall was about to reap the fruits of Louise Sage's contributions to racing in Windsor. He oversaw the beginning of participation in the esteemed Bay State Short Ship Circuit. Subsequent park owner Allan J. Wilson brought in races with purses of \$10,000, and crowds of thousands routinely poured onto the infield and packed the grandstand to take in the games.

But this fame was not to last forever. In 1935, after years of popular, but unregulated, gambling on horse races in the circuit at Sage Park, a bill to legalize racetrack betting made its way through the Connecticut state legislature. Despite having overwhelming support in the Senate, the House only barely passed it and ultimately Governor Wilbur L. Cross vetoed the bill. This effectively sealed Sage Park's fate and marked the beginning of the end of the sport in Connecticut. For two brief weeks in August of 1934, a Boston promoter named Dick Dunn held automobile races at Sage Park. However, noise and dust complaints from neighbors, and more seriously, the death of a driver, Hal French, led to the quick ban of car racing in Windsor. Every so often, rodeos, horse shows, and other special

events would utilize the space, but for the most part the park was used for training and housing horses. A pair of fires in 1937 and 1943 destroyed stables, and after that, the grandstand was left to the vines and weeds, while tall grass slowly obscured the track altogether. Eventually, in 1946, final owner Elizabeth Wilson sold the Sage Park property to the town of Windsor's Public Building Commission, which intended to build a junior-senior high school on the site.

Since the 1950s, the echoes of bells that rang to herald the start of race day can be heard in the bells signaling the end of a class. Students chatting in hallways and training on the running track follow the path of the horses and walk in the footsteps of racing fans, who, a century earlier, flocked to Windsor for surges of adrenaline and a chance at striking it rich, courtesy of horses like Hollywood Walker and Friscoe Worthy flying around the oval at Sage Park racetrack.



Sage Park score card, 1926. WHS
Collections, 2000.22.1 1926

Research and Reminiscences

with Michelle Tom and Bev Garvan,
Historian

When you work at a historical society, people often ask about when certain businesses or buildings were in a particular location. They remember something and want to know when it happened, or when something moved. Or they see a photograph and wonder when it was taken. We have many, many undated photographs that show businesses and houses that no longer exist, and the photos would be much more useful to us, researchers, and the general public if we could figure out when they were taken. So in order to address some of these issues, we came up with the idea of documenting all the businesses in Windsor Center over the last century. Historian and long-time volunteer Bev Garvan has gamely taken on this monumental task. I recently sat down with her to talk about her research methods and some of her discoveries.

BG: When Christine asked me if I thought I could put together a list of the past and present businesses that have operated around the Broad Street Green, I said sure, thinking it would amount to 200 or 300 stores. It has turned into a huge snowball and I am now up to over 500! And I'm very sure I haven't found them all.

MT: How did you go about figuring out who was where and when?

BG: My starting point was the 1951-2012 city directories. Because these list everyone by street it was fairly easy to pick up the businesses, although very time consuming.

Next came some old telephone books in our archives, but these are much harder to find addresses in because they aren't organized by street, they're organized alphabetically by name, and you have to go through the whole book looking for businesses on Broad Street.

MT: So you ended up looking through them name by name. Did you use any other resources?

BG: Our subject files on businesses

have a lot of data in them but you don't know which ones are around the Green. Takes a lot of searching. But a pattern soon started to develop. The Green was once the residential center of the community and had large houses on all sides. Today only a few frame dwellings remain. The rest of the Green has been developed for commercial and public uses.

Some of the earliest developments turned out to be down around the railroad depot and freight house. This was truly the first industrial park in Windsor with companies like Eddy Electric, Spencer Arms, Windsor Collar & Cuff, etc. The trouble is almost nothing has been recorded about the small businesses down there. We had to turn to the old photographs to find them.

MT: Yes, I would print out photos I'd find of a new angle or a new era on the different blocks and we would scrutinize the visual record to deduce when it was taken. You were telling me that going through these files and rediscovering businesses has brought up a lot of memories, and you've found out some interesting little facts. Can you repeat some of those here?

BG: Did you know that at various times there were three serious fires around the Green that wiped out whole strips of houses and stores—one being a fire that

even engulfed the original fire house with all its apparatus inside and they had to use a bucket brigade to put the fire out?

Also, many of the businesses have moved two or three times into buildings around the Green (jockeying for position I guess). Kings Electric was in three buildings, Windsor Federal in three. Dillon's started as Dillon & Lennox in one building, Dillon & Wilhelm in another, and finally plain Dillon's in a third.

MT: And the old A&P, you told us a story about that.

BG: The A&P used to be in the Newberry Homestead near the corner of Broad and Bloomfield. I clearly remember walking into the old Great A&P store when it first opened and being taken aback by the brightness and cleanliness. All the wall tiles were white with a black trim, the floor was white tile, the ceilings white with bright lights—so unlike the other old stores with their tin ceilings and rough, worn wooden floors.

Windsor Historical Society is actively collecting photographs and other materials documenting 20th century businesses. We are happy to take donations, make scans of photos, and record new information.



Dillon & Lennox market at 192 Broad St., early 1920s. WHS Collections 2009.1.10 (detail)



An Eventful Start

by John F. Mooney, IV, Education and Outreach Manager

I am very excited to introduce myself to all of you as the Windsor Historical Society's new Education and Outreach Manager. Under this newly created title I organize the society's school programs and create the majority of our social media content. I currently live in Bristol, Connecticut, but grew up in communities up and down the Connecticut River Valley including Higganum, Cromwell, and Ivoryton. I earned my bachelor's degree in history from Green Mountain College, a private rural institution in Vermont. After returning to Connecticut I earned my master's degree in public history at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain.

I have always been fascinated by the history of Connecticut, especially that of the 19th and 20th centuries. Having been born in the waning days of the Cold War when manufacturing in Connecticut was quickly disappearing, I tend to romanticize the years before my time when our cities and towns bristled with crowds of factory workers. While Windsor was never an urban community, it has seen its share of factories and companies throughout its history and has often been defined by the products it exported. It is this element of Windsor's history that I am most excited to explore and share with all of you.

Since starting in May my work experience has been quite eventful and has allowed me to explore so many facets of my position. My first day was enjoyable and very typical of a new job experience. Our former curator, Christina Vida, began to prepare me for my new responsibilities and accompanied me to my first Shad Derby Bureau meeting. The next day, however, I was informed that Christina had gone into early labor and almost certainly wouldn't be able to come back to give me more training. While I was daunted by this quick change of circumstance, I was also optimistic that this challenge could help me

quickly acclimate to my new position. The following weeks turned out to be a great experience of learning by doing.

My first task at the Historical Society was preparing for a series of field trips from Windsor's schools, the first of which was a 5th grade Revolutionary War trip scheduled for the Tuesday after my first week of work. Fortunately, while Christina couldn't be physically present to help me, she vigilantly answered my questions and provided guidance via email. With her assistance I was able to contact teachers, schedule busses, confirm volunteers, and prepare the materials needed for the trips. On the day of the first trip I led students through the Strong-Howard House all day long, teaching a lesson about Captain Howard's involvement in the American Revolution. After a long day, and with the much appreciated help of our education volunteers, we had pulled off the trip without a hitch. Over the next weeks I organized and successfully presented trips for one of Windsor High School's AP English classes and Clover Elementary School's 3rd graders. Getting to involve Windsor students in their town and Connecticut's history through our unique resources has been a highly rewarding experience and I can't wait to continue planning and hosting new field trips during the upcoming school year!

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, and Karen Parsons

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Daniel Crittenden

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

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Ruth Fahrback, Laura Jary, and the Town of Windsor, Walter Stefanow

LIBRARY

Elaine Brophy, Bev Garvan, Elena Peters, Sandy McGraw, Sue Gallagher, Gail Tinto, and Lois Warner

PUBLICITY

Ruth Fahrback, William Harris, Betsy and Gordon Kenneson,

Visit us

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

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

Tours of Historic Houses
11 AM & 1 PM

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

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

Upcoming events

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

September 6, 9 AM - September 20, 9 PM

Insta-Icon Photo Contest

Capture your favorite Windsor icon and enter the Insta-Icon Photo Contest by: 1) following us on Instagram [@windsorhistoricalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/windsorhistoricalsociety), then 2) make your profile public, and 3) tag your photo with #windsorticon. You'll have a chance to win a free tote bag and one-year family membership to the Windsor Historical Society. Staff will judge from among photos submitted, and the winning entries will be featured on the Society's new "Windsor Icons" poster! Winners announced on September 26th on the Society's Instagram account.

September 10, 9 AM to 11 AM

Learn-and-Play Second Saturday!

Bring the whole crew on the second Saturday of this month, and from 9 to 11 AM, enjoy our Windsor history galleries, Hands-on-History Learning Center, and the completely hands-on Strong-Howard House. Scavenger hunts are available, and you can explore at your own pace. Perfect for the youngest learners, with friendly guides nearby. Regular house tours are still at 11 AM and 1 PM, research library will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM.

Galleries and Hands-on-History Learning Center: FREE; Strong-Howard House: children 12 and under, teachers, and members are FREE, adults \$8, students and seniors \$6. Admission covers the whole day if you decide to stay.

September 17, 10 AM to 4 PM

Photo Booth at the Northwest Park Country Fair

Stop by the Society's booth and try out our life-size historic photos with head cut-outs. Volunteers will assist with photographs. Participate in a trivia contest for a chance to win a tote bag and one-year family membership to the Society.

September 28, 7 PM to 8:30 PM

Connecticut Voting & Politics, Then and Now

Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward talks about key political regulatory laws and transitions that occurred in Connecticut over the past four centuries, setting the stage for local experts from

Windsor's League of Women Voters and Windsor Registrars of Voters to discuss current elections and regulations. After the panel discussion, time will be available for questions from the audience.

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

October 1, 9 AM to 11 AM

Learn-and-Play First Saturday!

October 11, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

From Memory to Memoir: Writing Your Life Story

Turn memories of significant events in your life into a memoir for posterity. Learn where to start, how to get organized and keep going until you finish. No previous writing experience required. Susan Omilian has been encouraging and guiding budding memoir writers for many years. 6 sessions.

Sessions follow on October 18, October 25, November 1, November 8, and November 15. \$75 for six-session course. Class size is limited.

October 13, 7 PM to 8 PM

Connecticut Valley Tobacco: Lecture and Book Signing

Author Brianna Dunlap, director of the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum, shares the history of our region's most iconic crop from its early use by Native Americans to the impact of the reopening of Cuba in 2015. Featuring stunning photography by Leonard Hellerman, books are available for \$21.99

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

October 27, 7 PM to 8 PM

One of Windsor: The Untold Story of America's First Witch Hanging

Decades before Salem's witch hysteria, Windsor's Alice Young was the first person to be executed for witchcraft in the American colonies. For her 2015 publication, now in its second printing, author Beth Caruso combed land and vital records to build an evocative picture of Alice and the world she inhabited. Join Caruso for a book talk and signing to learn about the 1647 event and its ramifications on later witch trials throughout New England.

November 5, 10 AM to 12 noon; 1PM to 4 PM

Apple Pie Celebration

Visit our hands-on Strong-Howard House and savor delicious smells of apple pies and apple butter. Our experienced hearth cooker will share her secrets. Taste different varieties of apples, complete a simple apple

craft, and prepare your own delicious fall treat with dough, apples, and spices. Leave with your own tart, instructions for baking it at home, as well as a historic recipe for apple pie.

Reserve your spot by Friday, November 4.

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

November 6, 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Bus Tour of Windsor's Town Center with Historian Beverly Garvan

Why did the Town Center develop the way it did and how did it look in the 1950s? Each participant receives a packet of historic maps, photographs, and images from our collections to compare with the features they see as the tour progresses. Thanks to historian Beverly Garvan's research, you will learn the history behind Broad Street Green and Loomis Chaffee School, and see how rivers, streams, Indian trails, and railroads shaped settlement. Spaces are limited!

Reserve your spot by Friday, November 4.

School bus will meet participants at the Society.

\$12 adults, \$11 seniors and students, \$10 WHS members

November 19, 6 PM to 9 PM

Pre-Holiday Auction

Held at The Lodge on Deerfield Road, the auction provides the perfect opportunity to find great holiday gifts and getaways for someone you love, sponsor free admission to the Society, or make the holidays special for a Windsor family in need! Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 day of auction, and cover a delicious buffet dinner, beer, and wine. To purchase your tickets or offer an auction donation, call 860-688-3813 or email info@windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

December 3, 9 AM to 11 AM

Learn-and-Play First Saturday!

December 9, 6 PM to 8 PM

Historic Libations

Ring in the holidays with an exploration of the origins and tastes of some of the favorite beverages of early Americans. Society Archivist Michelle Tom will briefly regale you with the origins of these concoctions. Visit the drink stations, including one at our historic Strong-Howard House (magical-looking at night!) sample hot drinks prepared hearthside and indulge in tavern games. Drink recipes provided.

Ages 21 and up only. \$20 adults, \$18 seniors, \$16 members