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The Society Board of Directors elected new Board members and officers in June, including the first Black Board president in our 102-year history! Pictured here are (from left to right) Lance Hall, Secretary Daniel Crittenden, Sarah Gilligan, David Pugliese, Vice President Liz Burke, and President Randy McKenney. Not available for the photo were Treasurer Mark Walker, Assistant Treasurer Randy Graff, and incoming Board member Hilary Carpenter.

Society Elects New Board Members and Officers

Normally Windsor Historical Society helps people explore the town's diverse history. Occasionally we make a little of our own. On June 12, the Society's Board of Directors elected four new members and a new slate of officers. The Board's new president, Randy McKenney, is the Society's first Black president

in its 102-year history. Randy recognizes the symbolism of this milestone. "I'm thrilled to serve the Society in this role, especially with this great group of people at this time in our organization's history," he notes. "We've charted a significant new course over the past three years, and it's important that the whole Windsor community sees Society leadership that represents them."

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Paper Freedom Trail: The Life of George Turrer

By Michelle Tom, librarian/archivist

Descriptions of ordinary, everyday life for a Black person in 18th- and early-19th-century Connecticut are hard to come by. This is why it's extraordinary that Windsor has George Turrer, who is remarkably well-represented in our archives. Once enslaved, George's emancipation record survives to this day, and he appears in many other primary source records, from business ledgers to selectmen's records to census records. This rare collection of documentary footprints allows us to envision the activities and experiences of a Black man who was well-integrated into his primarily white hometown in the immediate post-Revolutionary War period.

One thing that complicates the search for George is the number of different surnames he used (or were assigned to him, as there is no evidence that George ever learned to read or write). Variants evolved from Turrow to Turrer, Turrell, Terrill, and Terry. I used the surname Turrer in this article, as that is the one used most

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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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Admission is free to browse the museum store, the *450 Years of Windsor Stories* galleries, our *Music* and *WAACA* Exhibits.

Wednesdays - Saturdays
 11 AM - 4 PM
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Historic House Tours at 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM
 & 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

What is “woke” and does it matter?

You hear the word “woke” used a lot these days, mostly by people who don’t like what they feel “wokeness” stands for. Personally, I’ve never been a big fan of labels. Maybe I’ve just never liked having other people define me or what I stand for (I recognize that this is a very privileged perspective, considering the generations of people who have been defined and labeled by others, mostly by white people in positions of power in our society).

The term “woke” began as a positive term, used to identify those “aware of and actively attentive to important societal facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice)” according to Merriam-Webster. However, like so many things in our struggling society, the term has now taken on other meanings, often pejorative.

History, of course, has never been exempt from being used politically. The old adage that “history is written by the victors” acknowledges this and, for much of U.S. history, has been true.

The divisions in our country today, while not new, can be painful to experience, especially when the divisiveness centers on how we try to make meaning of our common history. One might hope for a shared understanding that everyone can embrace and acknowledge, so we might be able to move forward

as one very diverse but unified nation. But we are certainly not there yet.

There is profound emotion attached to our history. Interpreting history, while based on facts, has never been simply a matter of “just the facts, ma’am.” The same information has often been interpreted differently by different people for different reasons.

To use an example from Windsor’s past, Major John Mason’s own writings are a principal source of our current understanding of what has become known as the “Mystic Massacre.” His writings describe the event in great detail, including his estimate that “six or seven hundred” Pequot people perished. In Mason’s telling of these events, this was “the just Judgement of GOD.” These same facts and numbers of Pequot fatalities caused others at that time to see this event differently. According to Captain John Underhill, when reflecting on the brutal attack on the Pequot village, both English and Indigenous allies asked “why should you be so furious...should not Christians have more mercy and compassion?” Same facts, different understanding.

This dynamic is not unique to our nation’s history. Reconciling diverging historical understandings is not easy. It has not been easy for people in Germany or South Africa, for example, where nationwide efforts have been undertaken to acknowledge the past and move forward. We are just beginning to make this effort.

In the U.S., some historians have reminded us of painful but

important parts of our history, including the long history of mistreatment of Indigenous people, the legacy of slavery, and the complicity of both southerners and northerners in sustaining and profiting from this system, as well as of ongoing structural racism and injustice. Some people react to these histories with shock, as if this is new information, rather than conveniently forgotten or intentionally ignored truths that never made it into our fourth-, eighth-, or eleventh-grade U.S. history courses. Others react defensively, as if it is somehow wrong to bring this information forward or that it represents an effort to make some (mostly white) people feel badly or guilty about their ancestors' actions, or their country. Others simply wish to move on with their lives and try to dismiss this history as "in the past." Still others cannot forget because their lives and the lives of their ancestors, grandparents, parents, and children are still affected and shaped by these historical events and injustices.

How does a small local historical society proceed at such a time as this? How can we examine our own history, acknowledge the intense emotions and strong feelings, and find a way to move forward with a shared understanding?

Some of you know that my mother's ancestors included the Grants of Windsor, as well as, according to her genealogical work, John Mason himself – a fact that she felt compelled to announce, out loud, while visiting the Pequot Museum several years ago. At the time I was not sure how I felt about this fact, but I was pretty sure I didn't want

the visitors or staff there to know about it!

The reality is that the truth about my family's past made me uncomfortable, especially in the midst of a museum about the history of the very people my ancestor attempted to eliminate in 1637. Thankfully, he did not entirely succeed.

In truth, it's ok for people to feel uncomfortable, if not vital that they do. One should never feel comfortable with, or proud of, treating other people badly – whether in 1637 or today. This discomfort with such things in the past can motivate people to learn more, and to act differently, with greater civility, towards one another today.

(At this point I must say: please do not disrespect or excuse our ancestors by tossing out that time-worn red herring of "presentism" – that is, judging people of the past by modern standards. The people of the past knew very well that murder, theft, and enslavement were wrong, and many, many of them said so throughout our history. They were just overruled by other, more powerful people.)

So, while the facts about my ancestors have not changed, my understanding and perspective have changed. Perhaps it was some act of ancestral karma that drew me to Windsor Historical Society, where we have not only the opportunity but the responsibility to explore, acknowledge, and help others understand the town's past. The past cannot be changed, but how it is understood and interpreted can be. Two years

ago, Windsor Historical Society adopted a formal statement about our approach to interpreting and sharing the community's history. We acknowledged the exclusion of Black and brown narratives and stories, and dedicated ourselves to unearthing the stories of all Windsor's people, especially people of color, and sharing these stories in ways that are mindful of the needs of our community.

Is this "woke"? Or is this just doing good history? Is a community history that does not include the stories of all of its people truly even a history? Who would want their family's story omitted from the historical record? Not me.

And so, together we will carry on. Through oral history interviews, wide-ranging genealogical programs and research, school programs, public exhibits, programs, tours, and an increasing amount of engaging digital content on our website and social media, we aspire to work with all who have Windsor connections to learn, understand, and share our common history. Some of this history will be painful and some will evoke other emotions, but as in the past we will continue to ensure that it is fully researched, accurate, and thoughtfully presented in collaboration with other members of the Windsor community.

Thank you for being a part of this important work!





Bildad Phelps' house on Hayden Station Rd., c1910. George Turrer lived here while he was enslaved by Bildad Phelps. | WHS collections 1995.25.46, photo by Katherine Barker Drake.

during his lifetime.

BLURRY BEGINNINGS

George Turrer was born around 1760, though we don't know where. Through his 20s and early 30s, he was enslaved by Bildad Phelps and lived in what is now called the Hayden Station neighborhood. The Phelps home (seen here above), was located just north of the Palisado Ave.

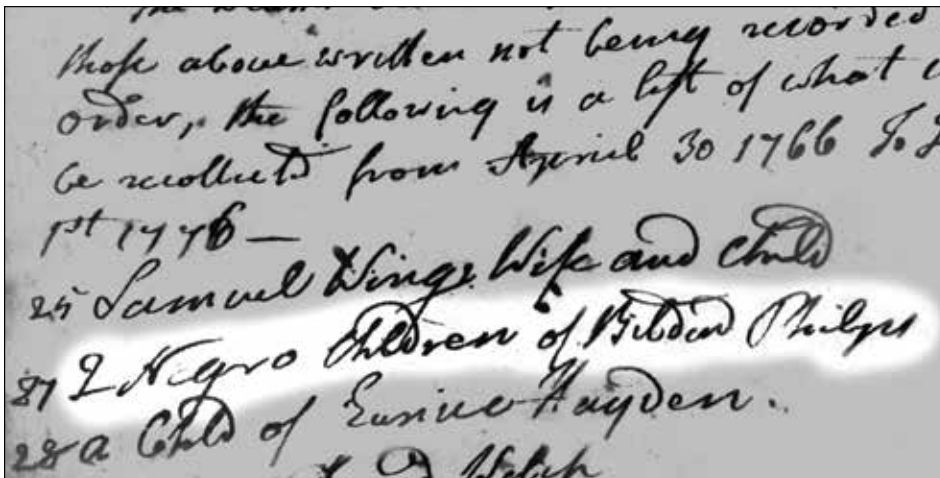
intersection on what is today Hayden Station Rd. But at the time the house was built in 1780, it was known as the highway to Springfield.

It was one of the largest houses in town and we can picture Bildad, a lawyer and a father of seven children by then, purchasing George to have a young man help around his new home while

he spent lots of days away with business obligations. Perhaps George slept in a third-floor or attic room, which was a common arrangement in New England households, a room that he probably shared with another enslaved man.

It's also possible that George was born to a mother already enslaved by Bildad, and thus would have grown up around the Phelps family for his whole life. Church records reveal that Bildad had at least two servant children (whose races are not marked) baptized at the North Parish of First Church of Windsor in 1771. The same record book also noted that Bildad's household included two "negro children" who died between 1766 and 1776. These records suggest that Bildad had at least one enslaved Black woman in his house in the 1760s and 70s who could have been the mother of these children. This is also when George would have been a child.

As a member of the North Parish, Bildad Phelps would have brought any people he enslaved to church services. They would have sat separate from the family, alongside any other enslaved or free people of color who also attended the same church, which included all those who lived north of the Farmington River up through today's Windsor Locks. For a few decades, starting in the late-18th century, that area was home to the largest concentration of Black residents in town. George would have been sitting in pews next to Tom and Smut, George's close neighbors who were enslaved by Levi and Margaret Hayden; Sarah, Jack



"Deaths...recollected from April 30 1766 to Jan 1st 1776...2 Negro children of Bildad Phelps." First Church of Windsor, North Parish record book. | WHS collections

Japhet Pell, and Nancy Toney, who were all enslaved by Chaffee family members; Mark and his mother, enslaved by Return Strong; Ti, enslaved by Jonathan Ellsworth; Jeptha, a violinist who escaped slavery from Elizabeth Ellsworth in 1791; Caesar, who was possibly a free Black man who died in 1776; free brothers Moses and Oliver Mitchell; and several others whose names we don't know.

Whatever the circumstances of George's youth, as an adult, he ended up living in one of those rare New England homes with more than one enslaved person there at one time. The 1790 census assigns two "slaves" to the household of Bildad Phelps. These two are likely George Turrer and Julius, both of whom would apply for emancipation ten years later. George was around a decade older than Julius, but both would have been strong men who worked on Bildad Phelps' vast land holdings and managed his livestock. George later became a butcher, so we can imagine him spending most of his days outside with animals and doing other hard labor like chopping wood.

AMBIGUOUS STATUS

Well before the momentous legal event of his emancipation in 1800, George seems to have had some level of freedom. "George Turro of Windsor" has his own account in the business ledger of father and son Abiel and Origen Griswold back in 1793, showing that he was already using a surname and obtaining credit with local businessmen. Items and services George acquired from the Griswolds include loads of wood, tobacco, cider, wheat,

and most intriguingly, a "justice writ" and "judgement by default." Abiel Griswold was a justice of the peace, but unfortunately, we have been unable to find out what these legal services referred to.

It was not uncommon for enslaved men to earn their own money. Such jobs often took place outside what we might consider regular working hours and enabled some men to buy their own freedom or the freedom of their family members. The purchase of things like wood and legal services imply an independent living situation, so it's not entirely clear whether George was still enslaved at this point.

A Windsor selectmen's record book shows that "George Turrow" was being paid by the town for various jobs as early as 1795, including for working on the "grate bridge" (the Palisado Ave. bridge over the Farmington River), "keeping [housing] Mille Hazzard," and "taking care of Debrah Squaw." In this era, the town paid

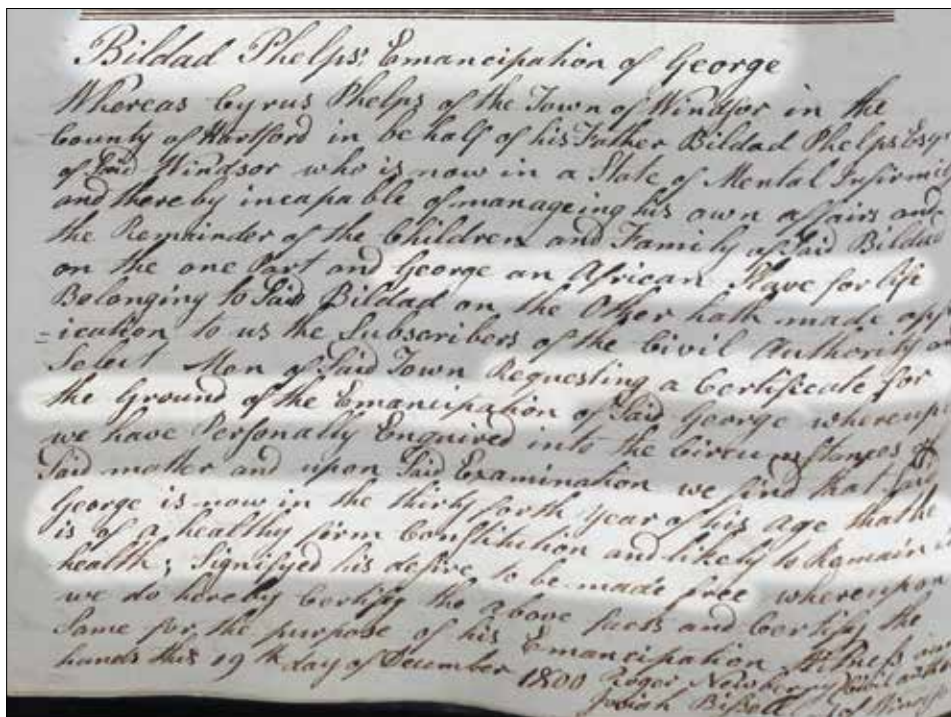
many individuals to care for the poor in various ways, either by housing, clothing, or feeding them, or occasionally by taking them out of town.

It is notable that the names of both the people George took care of suggest that they were women of color (Hazzard is not an uncommon name for an enslaved man). Indeed, other Black and white Windsor residents also cared for people marked as Black, Indigenous, or mixed race, but the Black residents don't appear to have cared for anyone not marked with a race, which presumably means they were white.

Perhaps George was already considered – in practice, if not by law – to be a free person by this time. If he was housing a "pauper," that implied that he was living in his own house. Otherwise, his enslaver would more likely have been listed as the "keeper" and the payee for the service. George didn't own his own property in the 1790s, but it's possible that he

1793	Dec. 3 rd	George Turro of Windsor L ^r & S ^r	
		to two sled load of wood @ 5/0 each	0-10-0
1794	Sept. 27 th	to one Just ^l writ -	0-1-6
		to Judgment by Default and De ^r	0-2-6
1795	August 24 th	to 10 of Tobacco @ 5/10 lb	0-4-2
	Sept 11 th	to making 17 Barrels of Cider at prop	0-4-3
1796	March 29 th	to 2 load of wood	0-4-0
1798	Dec. 28 th	to one Bushel of wheat	0-7-0
1799		to one load of wood at Cambury marsh	0-1-6

George Turrer's account in Abiel and Origen Griswold's business ledger. "Justice writ" is the second item on the list, executed in 1794. | WHS collections 2001.10.2



George's emancipation request, 1800. Highlighted sections read: "Bildad Phelps Emancipation of George...George an African slave for life...requesting a certificate for the ground of the emancipation...George is now in the 34th year of his age, that he is of a healthy firm constitution and likely to remain in health; signified his desire to be made free." Town of Windsor Land Deed book 23, p.281 | courtesy of the Windsor Town Clerk's office.

was renting or leasing a house.

EMANCIPATION

What is clear in is that Bildad Phelps's adult children did not officially emancipate George until 1800. George requested emancipation (a step in the legal process) on December 19, 1800, and on December 24, the family consented. These actions were recorded in the Windsor land deed books. Because enslaved people were seen as property, freeing them was a property transaction.

Muddying the waters a bit is that it wasn't until 1807 that Bildad's son-in-law Ebenezer Fitch Bissell formally declared George to be free. Each of these emancipation steps are written one after the

other in the deed book. First is the request in 1800, then the consent in 1800, and finally the declaration in 1807.

Also in 1807 is a deed showing that the Phelps heirs arranged to give him some land. They sold him land for £10, which maybe George didn't have, so one of the heirs, Cyrus Phelps, loaned him the money in the form of another land deed. That deed said that if George repaid Cyrus the £10 plus applicable interest, then Cyrus would give up his right to the land, and George would own it outright.

One possibility as to why the declaration of freedom didn't occur until seven years after the request is that the Phelps

heirs worried that the land sales wouldn't be valid because George might have still been legally considered enslaved. While they agreed to emancipate him, there was no statement that he was, in fact, emancipated. Perhaps to remedy this, they wrote down such a statement, but not until a month after selling him the land.

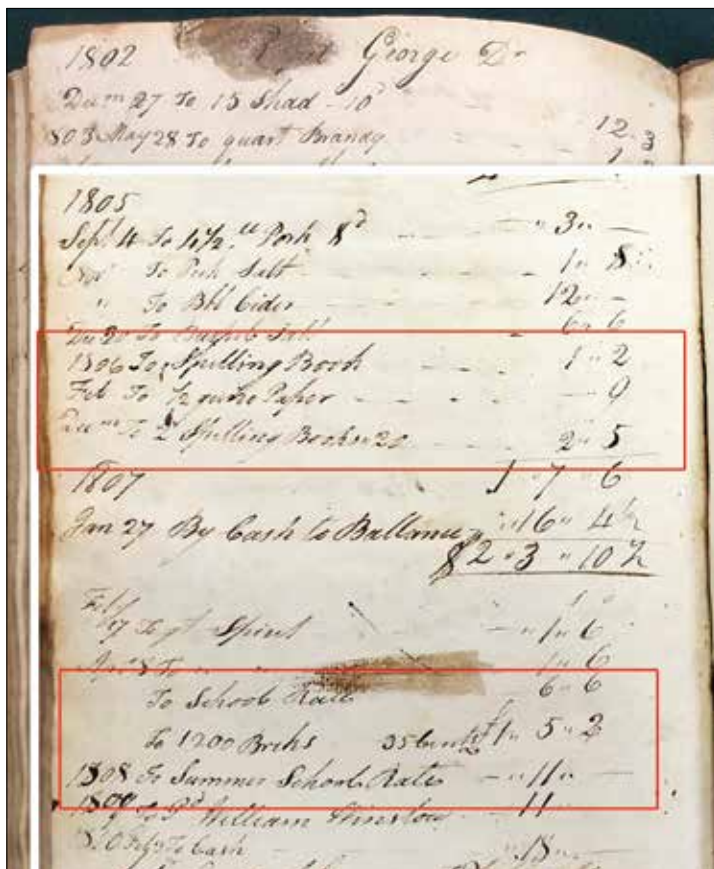
RAISING A FAMILY

The reason for buying property in 1807 might have had to do with George Turrer's growing family. George and his wife Lucy had at least one school-age child by 1806, with one born as early as 1799. "George Turrer" has credit accounts with a neighbor, Levi Hayden, the school tax collector for their district, wherein he was obtaining spelling books and paper in 1806 and paying "school rates" in 1808. Though Turrer could not read or write himself (he signed his land deeds with an X), it was obviously important to him that his children have an education.

Actually, the Turrers were not the only Black children to attend school, which they did alongside their white neighbors. Another of Levi Hayden's school "subscriptions" account books lists the names of Black families with children going to school, including the Warren, Frank, Hendrick, and Ross families. While not a large percentage of the overall Windsor population, these Black children would have made up a fair portion of the students attending Hayden Station's integrated school in the early-19th century.

A LASTING LEGACY

We are lucky to have the reminiscences of someone who



George's account with Levi Hayden, showing he procured spelling books and paper and paid for summer school, 1805-1808. | WHS collections 1976.20.2.

whites had about accepting blacks as equals, an attitude that may have developed over the course of the century. The fact that George's self-respect and conduct seemed to Hayden worthy of comment implies that whites may not have expected such self-confidence and demeanor to be typical of [Black people].

Despite what the white Hayden Station residents thought, it did not stop the Turrer family from maintaining their foundation in the neighborhood. At least a few of George's children stayed and raised their own families there. His daughter Sally, who married William Little in 1817, lived on Palisado Avenue, about a mile away from where she grew up. His granddaughter Sophronia Terry continued to live in the same house after Sally died, until her own death in 1920. In all that time, the Terry family remained members of First Church, even after a much closer one, Archer Memorial AME Zion Church, was built in Hayden Station, possibly on the same land that George Turrer lived on after his emancipation.

Sophronia's death over 100 years ago marked the end of the line for George Turrer's descendants in Windsor. But his story is one that deserves to live on. There are many resources yet to investigate, and we hope to expand on this and other untold Black stories in the future.



knew George Turrer personally. Historian and Turrer neighbor Jabez H. Hayden (1811-1902) wrote a lengthy passage about George in his Windsor history book, *Historical Sketches*, published in 1901. Hayden's recollections, excerpted here, provide vivid details that would never have been documented in record books:

In my boyhood days there was living at Hayden's in Windsor an old negro named George Turrer, who had been a slave in the family of Lawyer [Bildad] Phelps. [...] He had a commendable degree of self-respect and conducted himself accordingly. He was by profession a butcher, and living at a time when everybody raised their own pork, he did a fair business in this line. He also raised corn "on shares" and worked for the neighbors by the day in summer and chopped wood by the cord in winter. [...]

When I was about a dozen years old,

my father sent an older brother and myself with the team to plow out George Turrer's field of corn which he had planted before he was taken sick. The next day his white neighbors gave "a spell" and hoed and put in order his field of corn and he had a crop to gather the next autumn.

Of course, Hayden's language and undertones also shed light on a general mindset that he probably shared with other white people of this era. Marcia Hinckley analyzes the full passage in her masters' thesis, *We just went on with it: The Black Experience in Windsor, Connecticut 1790-1950*:

George may have had to earn his reputation by hard work and proper demeanor, but he nevertheless did have the respect of his neighbors, and they gave him the same neighborly and kind treatment that they gave to their white neighbors. But a close reading of this passage also reveals some reservations the

McKenney is joined by Vice President Liz Burke, Secretary Daniel Crittenden, Treasurer Mark Walker and Assistant Treasurer Randy Graff.

Stepping down from the Board after many years of dedicated leadership are Kathy Carroll, Jim Welsh, John Berky, and Agnes Pier. John and Agnes have both served as Board president, overseeing many changes, including the campaign to restore and reinterpret the Strong-Howard House, an executive director transition, and the ongoing effort to build a more inclusive organization. Each outgoing Board member was recognized during the June 21 Board Member and Volunteer Appreciation Reception.

The Society's four newest board members are Hilary Carpenter, Sarah Gilligan, Lance Hall, and David Pugliese, who join recently re-elected board members Randy McKenney and Walt Stevenson as the Board class of 2023.

HILARY CARPENTER

A longtime Windsor resident and attorney, Hilary currently serves as a public defender with the Connecticut State Division of Public Defender Services. She brings a strong interest in diversity and inclusion and a wealth of nonprofit experience, having established a professional grant writing service, served as President of the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty, and many other activities.

SARAH GILLIGAN

A professional writer and designer, Sarah is owner of Cerebration Writing and Design, and is a

longtime Windsor resident. In addition to being a lifelong history lover, she has also served as President of the Windsor Chamber of Commerce and Board member of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

LANCE HALL

A lifelong Windsor resident, Lance is the Director of Physical Plant for the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor. Lance also serves on the Board of the CT School Buildings Projects Advisory Council and the CT Technical Education & Career Systems Advisory Council, and is a member of the Society's Sustainability Task Force.

DAVID PUGLIESE

David is a South Windsor resident who serves as Compliance Director with Talcott Resolution of Windsor. He has led Talcott Resolution's corporate volunteer effort at the Society, which has included grounds maintenance and beautification, as well as mailings and other volunteer work, since 2019. David is dedicated to serving his community as a member of the South Windsor Food Alliance and a volunteer with CT Foodshare.



New Board President Randy McKenney and Executive Director Doug Shipman present outgoing President Agnes Pier with a gift in appreciation for her years of leadership and dedication to the Society. All photos by Michelle Tom.

Speaking of our June 21 Board Member and Volunteer Appreciation Reception...

once each year, we gather to express our deep appreciation for the many volunteers who dedicate so much of their time and talent to support Windsor Historical Society. This year the Chaffee House and its new exhibits played host as we enjoyed a perfect June evening with good food and friends (and a little jazzy music) to say thank you to volunteers and outgoing Board members. In 2022, over 270 volunteers donated 3,700 hours of work to the Society – we simply could not do what we do without them!

THANK YOU ALL!



Beryl Sampson and Community History Specialist Sulema DePeyster.



Long-time docents/historians Gordon Kenneson and Jim Trocchi.



Elaine Brophy, Mary Kelling, Roseann Lemkey, and Elizabeth Paklos.



Randy McKenney addresses the crowd as Mike Taylor takes pictures.



Trish Tait Tappenden, Florence Barlow, Joan Lynch, and Rene Fitzsimonds explore the new exhibit together.



Al Boehm and John Kelling enjoy a light moment.



Board members Skye Raymond and Sarah Gilligan.

Oral History Spotlight: Vincent Giuliano, A Changemaker at ADVO Inc.

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.



Vince Giuliano, 2023. Photo courtesy of Vince Giuliano.

For 45 years and counting, Vince Giuliano has called Windsor home. But Vince's story actually begins a few towns over in Wethersfield, where he was born in 1947. Vince's connection to Windsor started shortly after he graduated from Saint Michael's College in 1971.

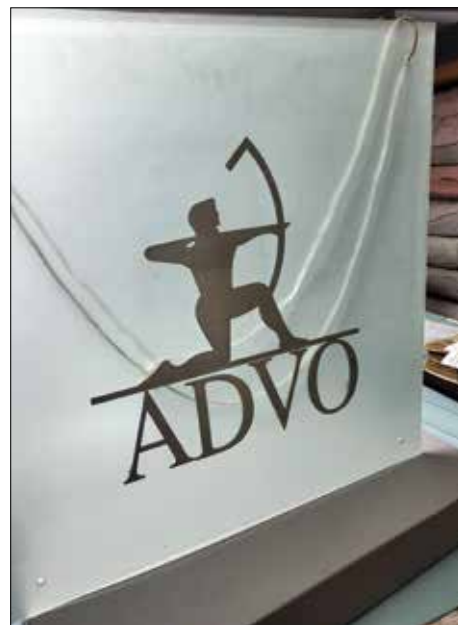
During his job search, his mother encouraged him to apply to a company in Windsor after seeing their advertisements in the newspaper. This turned out to be

ADVO Inc., a direct mail advertising company founded by Paul Siegal in 1929. Originally operating in Hartford, ADVO later relocated to the heart of Windsor's business district, right off Day Hill Road.

A successful interview resulted in Vince landing a position as a temporary employee, where he worked on a joint project with Magnavox, then an up-and-coming tech company. This project involved developing circulars to advertise Magnavox's newest retail promotions. "When I first started that, those mailings were about 40 million [households]," Vince stated. "And then the last promotion I worked on, it was about 50 million households that they mailed to. It was a big, big, big job, and ADVO invited me to stay on."

It was only up from there, as Vince became an administrative assistant for the Sears, Roebuck and Co. account, which had a business partnership with ADVO at the time. Vince eventually assumed a new role as the customer service supervisor and moved into sales, successfully helping to extend ADVO's reach beyond the New England area and into Georgia, Florida, and the Carolinas.

When Jack Valentine became the president of ADVO in 1976, the company was in danger of going under. To address ADVO's concerning financial state, Valentine enlisted Vince's help by moving him out of sales and making him the Director of List Maintenance. Valentine's plan was to have ADVO submit a bid to the Census Bureau for the



ADVO archer logo sign, donated by Vince Giuliano. WHS collections 2023.014.

1980 census, so that the Bureau could estimate the number of addresses throughout the country based on ADVO's mailing list. Vince immediately began working to update and maintain ADVO's database of addresses, staying late and toiling away to ensure the accuracy of the list.

"Valentine was successful in selling the list to the Census Bureau. It was a \$3 million contract, and it wound up being a substantial amount of money to really benefit the company. [...] Valentine was right. The company had about \$7 million in sales [and was] losing a million dollars a year. It was basically hemorrhaging, and we needed to get that contract."

Over the years, Vince continued to climb the leadership ladder at ADVO. He went on to become the Vice President and later Senior Vice President of Government Relations. One of Vince's many



Vince with recovered children at the National Missing Children's Day Luncheon in 1995. Photo courtesy of Vince Giuliano.

great achievements includes the establishment of ADVO's America's Looking for Its Missing Children Program. After viewing the 1983 film *Adam*, which tells the tragic true story of a young boy named Adam Walsh who was abducted and killed, Vince felt a strong desire to take action. A year after the release of the film, Vince met with John Walsh, Adam's father, to discuss options for distributing photos of other missing children. Vince had already created small, detached address labels with advertisements on the back for circulars a few years prior, so he proposed this as a viable location to place the photos.

To seek approval for this idea, Vince and John met with leaders of the newly formed National Center for Missing Exploited Children, founded by Ronald Reagan. Concerns about ADVO,

a for-profit advertising company, exploiting the missing children situation initially led to the rejection of Vince's proposal. However, Lois Harrington, the wife of Reagan's Cabinet Secretary of Energy, saw the potential in the advertisements.

"I showed [Lois] the pictures of the cards. She kept them and said, 'I'm going to give this to my husband.' What I didn't know was her husband [John Harrington] took the card samples into a cabinet meeting and showed [President] Ronald Reagan. [...] Reagan said, 'Tell that company to do the program.'"

Within a few months, ADVO began sending its first batch of cards for missing children. As it turned out, the recovery rate was one out of six for each distributed card, indicating the program's

success. In 1995, ADVO held a National Missing Children's Day Luncheon to commemorate the establishment of the program ten years prior. Recovered children from across the country attended the event in Washington, D.C., as well as more than a dozen members of Congress.

By the time Vince retired in 2011, more than 25 years after starting the program and nearly 40 years after joining ADVO, over 255 children had been recovered as a result of their efforts. "Many times, I brought the child who was recovered either to the post office that the tip originated from or brought the child to the plant," Vince said. "What I wound up doing was I drove this program into the DNA of the corporation. So even after I had left, [ADVO] is still doing the program."

Today, Vince continues to reside in Windsor and has since 1978, despite numerous challenges. Within a year of moving into his home in Poquonock, the 1979 tornado tore it down. He and his wife rebuilt the home, but a fire destroyed it yet again in 2000. Even so, Vince remained committed to his home, rebuilding for the second time. "[Windsor] is a very, very good environment for children, and it's a nice place to grow up," Vince stated, highlighting the Windsor school system in particular. "It's just a great place and that's why we keep staying here."

Recent Acquisitions: Gordon Kenneson's Windsor Constable Badge

By Kristen Wands, curator



Gordon Kenneson and his badge, 2023 | Photo by Sue Tait Porcaro.



Gordon's constable badge | WHS collections.

Windsor Historical Society is fortunate to be the recipient of artifact donations representing a

broad range of Windsor's history from many generous donors. A few months ago, this badge was accessioned into the collection as a gift from its former owner, Gordon Kenneson. Kenneson wore the badge between the 1970s and 1990s when he held the elected post of constable. As constable, Kenneson collected back taxes and was an agent of other legal processes on behalf of the town. In a 1991 interview about the job, Kenneson told the *Hartford Courant* that in spite of a few harrowing

experiences involving shotguns and angry dogs, most of his encounters were friendly. He said at that time, "[Windsor is] a town that's still a town. I have no qualms about going into any section of this town. There are some great people in all sections of this town. There are crummy people in all sections of this town."

If you have a museum-worthy artifact like this one representing Windsor's unique history, let us know!

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION TASK COMMITTEE

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

EDUCATION & EVENTS

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

FRONT DESK AND ADMINISTRATION

Florence Barlow, Marie Dixon, Deb Dusseault, Gordon Kenneson, Joan

Lynch, Ed Paquette, Ellye Rosenberg, Nanci Scully, Sue Smith, Barbara Tanguay, Jim Trocchi, Sue Tustin, Maureen Vagnini, 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

LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Ken Anderson, Elaine Brophy, Rob Hoskin, Victor Montilla, and Iniya Raja

Second Saturdays Open Hearth Cooking with Becky Hendricks

Prepare scrumptious colonial dishes in the Strong-Howard House's kitchen open hearth and bake oven under Becky's expert tutelage. Sample each other's creations, then take some leftovers home. Pre-registration is required. Each program is limited to 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 programs: \$65 per person plus estimated \$10-15 food costs.

Saturday, September 9, 11 AM to 4 PM

Historic Foodways from the Colonial Garden

Explore historic garden bounties while working with foodways expert Becky Hendricks over an outdoor fire! Selections include cabbage sallet, parsnip fritters, Pepy's sallet of cold roast chicken, and more.



Saturday, October 14, 11 AM to 4 PM

Pies, Puddings, and Tarts

Choose between apple pye, bread pudding, Cheshire pork pye, chicken pye, cranberry taert, Marlborough pudding, pear taert, and pompion pye.



Saturday, November 11, 11 AM to 4 PM

Everything but the Turkey

Choose between sherried sweet potatoes, sauced apples, carrot pudding, onion pye, wild mushroom pye, sweet potato biscuits, creamed celery with pecans, and apple-currant relish.



Painting courtesy of the artist, Don Troiani.

Wednesday, October 18, 7 PM to 8 PM

Glimpses of Windsor's Black Patriots

Windsor supplied the Revolutionary War effort with Black soldiers as well as white. Each left documentary evidence behind; Librarian/Archivist Michelle Tom will share many of these documents and discuss possible interpretations of her ongoing research.

\$5

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.



Saturday, October 28, 1 to 2:30 PM
Tour of Historic Palisado Cemetery

Cemeteries are fascinating places where art and history meet. Windsor Historical Society's former director, Christine Ermenc, will share stories of community builders buried here, and gravestone carvers who memorialized them. Rain date Sunday, October 29. Meet at 96 Palisado Avenue.

\$5. Registration required.



Wednesday, November 1, Noon to 1:30 PM
Exploring Windsor's Black History Lunch Conversation

Join Community History Specialist Sulema DePeyster and members of the Windsor community for a lively in-person discussion. Topics vary. Bring your own lunch; soft drinks and snacks provided.

Free, but advance registration required.



Wednesday, November 8, 10 to 11:30 AM
Honoring Our Veterans, Sharing Our Memories

At Windsor Senior Center. Continental breakfast at 10 am, followed by program. Windsor-area Veterans and their families are invited to share a special photo of their time in uniform as well as their memories about what makes the photo so special!

Free. Contact Michelle Tom at mtom@windsorhistoricalsociety.org or 860-688-3813.



Thursday, November 16, 6:30 to 8 PM
Quilts of Windsor Historical Society

Curator Kristen Wands presents a behind-the-scenes look at ten of the rarely exhibited quilts. Selections represent the handwork of many generations of Windsor women from the 1850s to mid-20th century in a variety of styles including an album quilt signed by members of First Church.

\$10. Registration required; limit 30 participants.

Thursday, September 7, December 7, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
VIRTUAL Genealogy Support Group

Just starting to research your family tree? Experienced but stumped? This informal gathering by zoom connects fellow researchers from all over the country. Register in advance for zoom link. Free

Thursdays, October 5, November 2, 5:30 to 7 PM
IN PERSON 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? Free.



Tuesday, December 5, 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 for Holiday Shopping Night at the Society's gift shop and bookstore and take advantage of a one-time 15% discount!