



FYLER HOUSE

Windsor Historical Society News

VOL. II, No. 5

October, 1984

The Connecticut Historical Society

Two excellent exhibits are now in place at the Society at 1 Elizabeth Street in Hartford. Visiting hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday through Saturday, seven days a week. There is no admission charge.

THE OLD SOD AND THE NEW LAND:

Ireland today and 350 years of the Irish in Connecticut

TIME FOR ALL PEOPLE

Eli Terry and Seth Thomas:

Their Roles in the Development and the Factory System



Chartered 1825

The Windsor Historical Society News is made possible by:

BROWN'S HARVEST
CARMON FUNERAL HOME, INC.
GILLETTE REAL ESTATE
JOURNAL INQUIRER
EDWARD J. KERNAN & CO.
SNELGROVE FLOWERS & GIFTS
WINDSOR BANK & TRUST COMPANY
THE WINDSOR HOUSE
WIL-BES PRINTING

December Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 8:00 p.m.

An evening of Barber Shop singing by the Insurance City Chorus (a chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.) will help us start the Christmas season. Tom Kelsey, a member of The Windsor Historical Society, is their program chairman.

Tobacco Valley

NORTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
CONVENTION & VISITORS DISTRICT

Better yet
Connecticut



We hosted a Board of Directors meeting for this organization at 7:30 p.m., October 23rd, which included a walk through Fyler House and Wilson Museum. The Board of Directors is made up of appointed members of the towns in the district: East Granby, East Windsor, Enfield, Granby, Somers, Stafford, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

This organization is sponsored by the State of Connecticut and is financed by 1.5% of the sales taxes collected in hotels, motels and restaurants in the nine town district. Already, under the able guidance of Eileen Axenroth, Director, brochures and calendars of events have been printed and distributed widely, radio ads have been run and a Tourist Information Office has been operating in a trailer alongside I-91 at Ramada Inn in East Windsor.

A real effort is being made to make visitors to the area aware of the tourist attractions and that should result in a steady increase in our attendance here at Fyler House.



FYLER HOUSE

President's Comments

In September, the Executive Committee adopted a Collections Management Policy for our Society. This policy covers accessions of articles into our collections, deaccessions and loans to, or from, others.

The policy is intended to serve as a guide for the staff and as a public statement of our standard procedures regarding objects left in our care. The collections maintained in Fyler House and the Wilson Museum represent a valuable and irreplaceable heritage. We must assure that these collections are properly recorded, conserved, protected and exhibited. Further, because of our limited space, we must determine

whether new accessions are relevant to Windsor history or the life-style of its people and whether they duplicate things already in the collections.

Nothing in the collection management policy is aimed at discouraging gifts of historic or interesting items to the collections. As in the past, the collections will grow and increase in interest because of gifts from members and friends of the Society.

A. B. Hooker

EARLY WINDSOR WATER SYSTEMS

A newspaper clipping found recently in our Windsor History file was an interview with Levi G. Hayden in the old Hartford Evening Post dated July 5, 1884. Mr. Hayden tells of the old New England Hotel on Front Street which was still standing in Hartford and the old log cabin constructed at the corner of Asylum and Trumbull Streets by contributions of logs from the countryside by members of the 'Whigs' political party (Mr. Hayden had taken his log in by oxcart).

He discusses Windsor's old turnpike road to Springfield, up-river towns and Boston that ran through Hayden Station; the old homestead of William Hayden which stood on the east side of Palisado Avenue just below where Hayden Station Road forks off to the west; the old sandstone quarry; the site of the Hayden brick yard; the old Pickett Tavern

where General George Washington had stopped that was still standing but in poor repair and lived in by a farm hand; the Hayden homestead (burned in 1936); a pear tree planted by early settlers; removal of a store by scow downriver to Hartford and last but not least, an 'Early Water Supply'.

"I want to show you the source of a water supply that was utilized many years ago. When the old Congregational church at Windsor was built (in 1794) it was desirable to have a good water supply. So trees, generally cedar, were felled, hollowed out and laid from this little lake on the main road (now the corner of Pond Road and Hayden Station Road) through what is now Haydens to the church, a distance of three miles. The service at first was good,

Continued next page.....



FYLER HOUSE

but the wooden pipes finally became clogged with twigs and dirt and the logs proved defective in many instances, so that the experiment was a failure. Workmen who were digging for the foundation of the depot at Haydens (1st built in 1875 and burned in 1904. 2nd built in 1904 and razed in 1933) came across some of these logs and wondered what they were. 'I will tell you, I said--and I gave them the whole story'.

The pond is not very large, nor does it look very inviting. The outlet into the old wooden main still exists; it is on the east edge of a branch road and in front of a house, one of a collection occupied by colored families."

Found in The Hayden Collection, was a small packet of manuscripts and receipts on which Jabez H. Hayden has noted (in 1895):

"Receipts given by the committee Ezra Hayden, Levi Hayden & Elisha Sill on the Treasurer Josiah Bissell Esq. of the Windsor Aqueduct Company to 36 different individuals amounting to \$877.00 dated January, 1799 to Nov., 1800. The water was carried in 3 inch water logs from the "Old Pond" at the head of Pink Street to Windsor Bridge, a distance of 3 miles. The work proved measurably successful for a time but was abandoned before my recollection, I think about 1812 - 1815. He further notes that the operating Windsor Aqueduct Company in 1800 was organized more than 30 years before New York City or Hartford had a water-works by gravity."

The Hayden family also was involved in a water system supplying Windsor Center. An article appears

in The Windsor Herald, Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1, 1886 with a heading:

THE WINDSOR WATER WORKS
Hon. H. Sidney Hayden, President

In 1869, Judge Hayden purchased the property of the Sequassen Woolen Co., whose mill had been destroyed by fire (1853-1873), now the site of Combustion Engineering, across the tracks from the soon to be restored railroad station). This property included their reservoir (Washington Park Pond) and line of piping to the mill.

Mr. Hayden had the reservoir carefully cleaned and enlarged, but finding the old pipe was of inferior quality, laid new mains to the centre, of six and eight-inch cast iron pipe; these mains as provided with hydrants on Maple Avenue and Broad Street, furnish protection from fire. After two years, finding that

the ponded water in the reservoir was not always of the best quality, he went about one-half mile further west and built storage wells at the springs, where the water bubbles directly from the sand and is so pure and clear as to merit its name of "Crystal Spring". There are three of these wells, having a capacity of fifteen thousand gallons, so arranged that they can be used separately, if desired. From these wells the water is conducted to the village and there distributed in about one hundred places.

There are nearly three-fourths of a mile of cast iron pipe, and two and one-fourth miles of galvanized pipe laid, making the entire cost of

Continued next page.....



Mrs Samuel T Hinckley
209 Paltisado Avenue
Windsor CT 06095

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 54
Windsor, Conn.



NEW MEMBERS

Buford L. Bissell, Sr.
Mrs. Edward F. Manion
Mr. John J. Quigley, Jr.
Mr. William Sa. Winchell
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Bense, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. David R. Sherwood
Mrs. Franklin P.O. Potter
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Butler

EARLY WINDSOR WATER SYSTEMS.....

the water works about nine thousand dollars. In connection with the water supply, Mr. Hayden constructed a sewer from the corner of Spring Street and Maple Avenue through and beyond the Avenue to the east side of the railroad, giving the residents of the avenue the city advantages of water and sewers.

In 1871 the legislature granted a charter to the Windsor Water Co., and in 1885, Mr. Hayden organized the Company, of which he is President and Treasurer, and which now owns and operates the Windsor Water Works."

Also found in The Hayden Collection, were three small self standing shelf file boxes of busi-

ness papers related to The Windsor Water Company for the years 1893 through 1909. Earlier records are part of three personal files of H. Sidney Hayden.

This system was still in operation when taken over by the present day Metropolitan District Commission after a vote of 732 yes's to 189 no's on October 7, 1929.

Workday Scheduled

Our last workday at Wilson Museum will be Nov. 13th, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring lunch. Beverages furnished.



FYLER HOUSE AND WILSON MUSEUM

10 to 12 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday

April 1 through November 30

Genealogical Research in Library
By Appointment

203-688-3813

President: Alexander B. Hooker
Director: Robert T. Silliman