



FYLER HOUSE

Windsor Historical Society News

VOL. III, No. 2

April 1985

MAY MEETING Blake Room - Wilson Museum

MONDAY, MAY 13th, 8:00 p.m.

JOHN F. SUTHERLAND

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"CHENEY BROTHERS WAS THE WORLD"

A short business meeting prior to this program will call for a vote accepting revised By-Laws of the Society that were last updated in 1965. See the President's Comments on page two explaining the major changes.

EDWINNA C. HILLEMEIER 1894 - 1985

Memorial Gifts of over \$500.00 have been received by the Society in memory of Edwinna who served the Society as Curator from 1972 thru 1982.

The Board of Directors voted on April 22nd to place these funds in a Special Library Account for additions to the library in her memory.

The Windsor Historical Society News is made possible by:

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WORLD WAR II EXHIBIT

Souvenirs, memorabilia and artifacts that have been tucked away in the homes of Windsor World War II veterans will be dug out, dusted off and loaned to the Society for display in an exhibit open to the public at Wilson Museum May 7th through May 17th.

This will be an opportunity for Windsor's WWII veterans to display some of their keepsakes to the public and other veterans. Anything except firearms and explosives, brought back home at the end of the war qualifies, no matter where a person served, from Bradley Army Air Corps Base to the far reaches of Europe, Africa, Asia or the high seas. Home front souvenirs such as ration coupons, Red Cross programs, aircraft spotters and Civil Defense items will be of interest.

All donors and their friends, along with invited guests are invited to a reception to open the exhibit at Blake Room, Wilson Museum, 96 Palisado Avenue on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:30 p.m.



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President's Comments

A committee, chaired by the Vice President, has proposed changes to the By-Laws of the Society. The most significant of the proposed changes are:

- a. The name of the governing body is changed from the "Executive Committee" to the "Board of Directors".
- b. The numbers of members to constitute a quorum at a regular meeting of the Society is increased from 15 to 25.
- c. The offices of Corresponding Secretary, Membership Secretary, Recorder and Assistant Recorder are eliminated.
- d. The number of members-at-large on the Board of Directors is increased from three to five.
- e. The duties and responsibilities of the officers, the standing committees and the Board of Directors are stated in more detail.
- f. A Museum Committee is established. It will oversee the collections and exhibits and be responsible for the duties previously performed by the Recorders.
- g. The number required for a quorum of the Board of Directors is increased from five to eight.
- h. The President may not be elected to more than four consecutive one year terms.
- i. The Nominating Committee will include three members (rather than two) elected at the May meeting of the Society.

The complete draft of the proposed changes to the By-Laws is available at Fyler House for your review. They will be presented for approval by the membership at the meeting on May 13th.

On May 16th, over 75 members of the Descendants Of The Founders Of Ancient Windsor will be departing New York City for a two-week tour of England, highlighting the villages from which the passengers on the "MARY AND JOHN" departed in 1630. Their return will bring them back to Boston exactly 355 years to the day that the "MARY AND JOHN" landed at Nantasket, Mass. The group will return to Windsor for its final get together dinner at Tobacco Valley Inn before disbanding. A Welcoming Committee at the Founder's Monument on Palisado Green as well as a visit to Fyler House is planned. Members and townspeople are invited to attend the Welcoming on Palisado Green at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 30th.

THE "MARY & JOHN"

On the twentieth of March, 1630, a group of men and women, one hundred and forty in number, set sail from Plymouth, England, in the good ship "Mary and John." The company had been selected and assembled largely through the efforts of the Reverend John White of Dorchester, England with whom they spent the day

before sailing "fasting, preaching, and praying." These people had come from the western counties of England, mostly from Devonshire, Dorsetshire and Somerset. They had chosen two ministers to accompany them; men who were interested in the idea of bringing the Indians to the knowledge of the gospel."



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The Reverend John Maverick was an elderly man from Devon, a minister of the established church. Reverend John Warham was also an ordained minister of the Church of England in Exeter, eminent as a preacher. There is some evidence that both of these men were in some difficulties with the Church on account of their sympathies with the Puritans.

So we came, writes Roger Clapp in his Memoirs, by the good Hand of the Lord, through the deep comfortably; having preaching or expounding of the word of God every day for ten weeks together by our ministers. When we came to Nantasket, Capt. Squeb, who was Captain of that great ship of four hundred tons, put us on shore and our goods on Nantasket Point, and left us to shift for ourselves in a forelorn place in this wilderness.

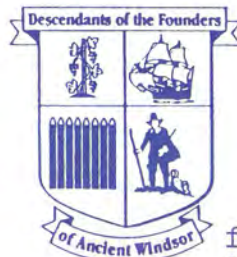
It had been their original intent to land in the Charles River, but a dispute with Captain Squeb, the commander of the vessel, caused the whole company, on May 30, 1630, to be put ashore at Nantasket. The settlement was later called Dorchester, in honor of the Reverend John White, of Dorchester, England.

Here they lived for five or six years. Other boats arrived and other towns were settled. But the life at Dorchester was not entirely congenial to the lovers of liberty of the "Mary and John." The group of settlements around Massachusetts Bay was dominated by clergymen and officials of aristocratic tendencies. Their Governor, John Winthrop, had little sympathy with the common people. "The best part (of the people)," he declared, "is always the least, and of that best part, the wiser is always the lesser." And the Reverend

John Cotton put it more bluntly when he said, "Never did God ordain democracy for the government of the church or the people."

These principles were repugnant to the people of the "Mary and John", who had come to America to escape such restraint. They had no wish to interfere with the methods of worship of others, and they did not wish others to interfere with them. Too, they were land-hungry after centuries of vassalage to the lords of the manors, leading hopeless lives without chance of independence. Perhaps they were influenced also, by the fact that a great smallpox epidemic had raged among the Indians, killing off so many that they were not the menace that they had been at first. The settlers turned their attention toward the fertile meadows of the Connecticut Valley.

A group under Roger Ludlow set out and reached the Plymouth Trading house that had been erected by William Holmes near the junction of the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers, early in the summer of 1635. A little later sixty men, women and children, with their "Cows, heifers and swine," came overland from Dorchester. The winter was severe and the food scarce, and many returned to Massachusetts, but in the Spring they came back to Connecticut with their friends, and by April, 1636, most of the members of the Dorchester Church were settled near the Farmington River, along the brow of the hill that overlooks the "Great Meadow." This, in spite of the fact that the Plymouth people disputed their claim to the land. They built rude shelters dug out of the rising ground along the edge of the river bank. The rear end and the two sides were simply the earth itself, with a front and a roof of



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Sterling Viets
Mrs. Rosalie V. Flint
Miss Clarissa M. Wolcott
Miss Mary L. Plowe

"MARY AND JOHN", continued.....

beams. The town was later named Windsor.

In the following year, 1637, danger from the Pequot Indians forced them to abandon their dugouts and to come together around the area known as Palisado Green. Their new homes were at once enclosed with a strong palisado.

In 1639 they began construction of their first real meeting house. It stood in the center of the palisado, and was topped with a cupola and platform, where the sexton beat a drum to summon the people to attend services or public meetings.

All over America today live the descendants of the fathers and mothers of the "Mary and John." Their sons and daughters found in every State of the Union have written their names on the pages of American history.

The Windsor Historical Society, Inc.
96 Palisado Ave.
Windsor, Conn. 06095



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