



Windsor Historical Society News

FYLER HOUSE

VOL. III, No. 3

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Penmanship books in our library belonging to Cicero Phelps and Lelina Sopers from the first Poquonock School (1796-1859) which stood on the s/w corner of Poquonock Ave. & Prospect Hill Road.

EXHIBITS, TOURS, WEDDING

The highlight of our Spring season here at Fyler House was the lawn wedding of Karyne Fyler (a direct descendant of Lt. Walter Fyler) and Andrew Kapp who are residents of Denver, Colorado. The weather was perfect, the guests were delighted with Fyler House and the Windsor Garden Clubs preparation of the herb and flower garden made a beautiful backdrop.

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Lelina Sopers

Written while under the tuition of

M^r A. Griswold

at

Village School in Poquonock
Began December 26th

1811.



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FYLER HOUSE

THE AMERICAN PENMAN.

MAKING A PEN.

What is the correct mode of making a pen ?

Hold the quill in the left hand, between the thumb and two forefingers ; cut off the end a little from the back of the quill, turn it up, and form the scoop ; then turn the inside down, and enter the knife a little into the back, without the least inclination to either side. Then with a quick motion, with the right thumb nail, give the split its intended length ; taking care to hold the thumb of the left hand firmly on the back of the quill, at the distance which the split is intended to reach. Enter the knife about one fourth of an inch from the end, and slice it off, bringing it to a point, by cutting from each of the sides alternately. Then place the inside of the nib, on the left thumb nail, and by letting the knife fall perpendicularly, nib the pen ; taking care to turn the knife so as to leave the right side of the split rather longer than the other ; which is necessary in order to make a fine hair stroke. The breadth of the point of the pen, should be proportioned to the size of the hand, which it is designed to write. If the quill split roughly, or be too thick, a little scraping, or shaving, from the back of it, will be necessary.

From The American Penman, written and engraved by Eleazer Huntington, Hartford, 1834. A booklet once owned by Abraham Pierson, Windsor.

Exhibits, Tours & Wedding, cont'd...

Special exhibits of Fyler memorabilia were on display, including a manikin in Fyler House parlor dressed in a wedding gown from our collection that belonged to the bride's great-grandmother.

Other events include the WWII Exhibit the first two weeks in May that was well attended. We have had several tours including 65 students from Clover Street School, a group of 20 members from the nine towns of the Tobacco Valley Tourist District, 65 Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor members returning from their tour to England, 32 students from St. Gabriel's School and 43 students from J.F. Kennedy School. As we go to press, we have booked an Elder Hostel Tour from the University of Hartford on Friday, June 28th. We are expecting 40 adults with this group.

Our faithful volunteers are doing a great job on their daily schedules and never hesitate to do extra duty when called on for the tours. Al Hooker and Dot Ball are constantly in and out doing everything from planting to plumbing, flower arrangements to bush trimming, and the dozens of other chores that make our facility what it is.

WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS

Jacqueline Malin, a summer intern funded by the Tobacco Valley Tourist District, reported to the Wilson Museum Library on Thursday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. Jackie will be with us on Thursdays and Fridays being shared with the Windsor Locks Historical Society on Wednesdays and the New England Air Museum on Saturdays and Sundays.

Already, Jackie has made a real dent in opening, sorting, classifying and filing the huge Hayden Collection we received last year from Mr. & Mrs. Haskell Hayden. She will also be working with George Christopher who has been updating our artifacts files going all the way back to our very beginning in 1922.

We thank the Tobacco Valley Tourist District and its Director Eileen Axenroth for this pilot intern program which is being watched by other Tourist Districts throughout the State.

Organizing the Hayden Collection, the Lasbury and Shelton Collections and our collections of Town Records will coincide with the re-decorating and furnishing of our new

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FYLER HOUSE

JABEZ HASKELL HAYDEN 1811 - 1902

Jabez Haskell Hayden was a prolific recorder as well as an historian. We have in our collection a small journal containing a collection of stories and anecdotes which is date lined: Windsor Locks, Connecticut July 8, 1893.

"At a meeting of the Connecticut Historical Society about fifty years ago, a member suggested the advantages which might accrue to the object for which the Society was organized, if the individual members would keep a book and note down from time to time as they recalled them, the anecdotes, incidents, well authenticated tradition, and whatever else would add a scrap of material to the history of individuals, localities or the times in which they occurred.

We're Making Progress, cont'd.....

Collections and Records Room in the lower level of Wilson Museum. An anonymous gift of \$4000.00 is making this project possible.

Clayton Van Gasbeck has started preparing the walls for painting, Al Hooker is completing a louvered partition hiding the meter board and de-humidifier and orders have been placed for book shelves, filing cabinets, a table and chairs. With a fresh coat of paint, new ceiling lights and a rug on the floor, we're hoping to be able to show off the results of our labors at our Annual Meeting on Sept. 26th.

If you are not already volunteering, Jackie Malin would love to have you come in and work with her in the library on Thursdays and Fridays. Why not phone, or just come and give her a hand with this interesting project?

The suggestion seemed to me a practicable one, but I have never before attempted to act upon it, and am not sanguine that I shall be able to recall much that is worthy of preservation from a memory that has been in use more than four-score years. Yet knowing that the slightest incident is sometimes of value to the Antiquarian, I shall, consequently write some things which will appear to most people puerile in the extreme."

Jabez H. Hayden

CLOCKS

"In early times there were few clocks or watches. Every family had a 'noon mark', along which the shadow of a window case, or door case, lays at high noon, when the sun shone clear. Some few had sun dials which in fair weather gave with a degree of accuracy other times of the day. These were supplemented where there was a church bell, by the ringing of the bell at mid day and at bed time, 9 o'clock.

The making of clocks was a new industry in Connecticut I think about or after the Revolutionary War. David Ellsworth of Windsor, a brother of the Chief Justice, Phineas Pickett of Haydens, and before 1790, Moses Wing of Pinemeadow, made clocks. Their trade also included the manufacture of knee buckles, and shoe buckles. I remember the shop in which Mr. Wing worked, but after it was occupied by Mr. Fox the old shoemaker. It stood on the highway, in front of the present Horton's house, on Center Street, Windsor Locks. I think it was not more than twelve feet square. The David Ellsworth shop, unoccupied, its owner dead (1821), stood just inside the lot, at the bridge, by the street across the brook opposite the Chief Justice's place. Mr. Pickett who lived three doors from my boyhood

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NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Alice Rohde
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton C. Van Gasbeck
Mr. Edwin J. Phelps
Mr. Robert L. Clark
Mr. Floyd Rising
Mr. Dale Lewis Ireland
Mrs. W. F. Mandrell

CLOCKS, continued.....

home (this location was at the corner of Center Street and Hayden Station Road) was living when I had reached adult years. He had kept Tavern (Pickett's Tavern) down to about 1816 at which time the opening of the 'new road' near the river (now Palisado Ave. above Hayden Station Road) and across the plains to Suffield. I remember when coming home from school with my sister Elizabeth (probably 1815 or 1816) I saw Mr. Pickett and his hired man taking down the tavern sign. He never pursued the trade of a clock-maker after my recollection.

Old clocks are so few at the present day as to be highly prized by lovers of antique furniture. About 50 years ago a clock was brought to my brother's store in Charleston, S.C. for repairs, which had


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

the name of Phineas Pickett Windsor written across the face. A clock formerly in the Gaylord family here, is now owned by Miss Ada Wordford of Hartford, a grand-daughter of "Moses Wing Windsor". I have seen "Ellsworth" clocks.

My son Nathaniel Hayden of Windsor, has a fine old brass clock, an excellent time keeper, made by Moses Wing of Pinemeadow for his cousin Wealthy Haskell. Wealthy (who became my mother) received the clock at about the time of her wedding in 1800. It kept time in our home during all the life of my sister Lucinda 1801-1893 and is pronounced by an expert, "good for another hundred yrs."



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