



FYLER HOUSE

ANNUAL MEETING Blake Room—Wilson Museum Friday, Sept. 25th, 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Gordon S. Taylor, recently retired from the Valley Laboratory of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on Cook Hill Road will present an illustrated talk on the tobacco industry and work in the laboratory. Dr. Taylor, a member of our Society, is presently involved in organizing The Connecticut Valley Tobacco Historical Society. It is hoped that this Society can locate its museum in one of the tobacco sheds within Northwest Park. For more information, write CVTHS, P.O. Box 241, Windsor, CT 06095.

A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 1987/1988 FISCAL YEAR.



BOOK SALE AND MINI-AUCTION

Come one, come all to our September 25th meeting and see what you can find at our first-ever surplus book sale and mini-auction. These books have been de-accessioned from our library collection and will be available to members.

Inspection of books to be auctioned and purchase of the books on sale will begin at 7:30 p.m. Come to "something different" and have some fun at our September meeting.

ARCHITECT SELECTED BY BUILDING COMMITTEE

James Vance and Associates of 57 Gillette Street, Hartford has been selected by the Building Committee to design our proposed new addition.

Your Board of Directors last winter appointed a Building Committee to investigate the needs of the Society and to proceed towards construction of a building made possible by the Marguerite E. Mills Endowment. Members are:

- John N. Eberle, Chairman
- George L. M. Christopher
- Carol Ann Stephenson
- Alexander B. Hooker
- Dorothy Ball Marcia Hinckley
- Jane B. Finley R. T. Silliman

After several meetings, the Building Committee decided to commence their search for an architect. Fourteen architectural firms were contacted of which ten accepted our invitation to meet with the Building Committee to discuss our needs. Although two of these firms dropped out at the last minute because of their own busy schedules, meetings were arranged with eight of the architects during June and July. After these initial meetings, the list was pared down to three of the firms and on July 28th the three finalists were scheduled for a second interview. On August 10th the Building Committee made their final decision and James Vance and Associates was notified of the decision.

We are now scheduling a series of Building Committee meetings with James Vance and Associates which will continue over the next several months. Progress during the design stage will be reported here in the Windsor Historical Society News.



FYLER HOUSE

FRIENDS OF STONY HILL SCHOOL



Volunteer as well as financial assistance is being solicited by Chairman Robert C. Geisel in order to save Windsor's last 'unspoiled' 19th century school building. This building, while needing interior and exterior repairs, remains pretty much as it did when last used as a kindergarten in the 1960's.

Three other 19th century school buildings remain in Windsor although they have been converted to other uses. The two story Elm Grove School at the corner of Poquonock Ave. and Prospect Hill Road is now the home of Windsor Grange No. 2. This building dates back to 1859 when it was purchased to serve as Poquonock's second school building after outgrowing the first one about 500 feet to the south. Earlier, the 'new' school served as Cicero Phelps' Tavern and Poquonock's first Post Office.

Rainbow School, located at 205 Rainbow Road was sold and converted to a private residence after Poquonock Elementary School was built in 1949. It is now the home of John T.

Hayden School constructed in 1896 as a one room schoolhouse at 853 Palisado Avenue has been used as a commercial building since being discontinued and sold in the 1930's. This location was the site of an earlier wood frame school that was designed by Henry Barnard in 1846 and represented as one of the most modern one room schools in the entire United States. This building burned in 1895 and was replaced by the present brick building.

Late last year, one of the oldest surviving buildings (1806) that was built as a one-room school near the corner of Poquonock Ave. and Day Hill Road was razed by the Department of Transportation.

Even though this building had been gutted when converted to a private dwelling back in the 1930's, it called our attention to the value of the Stony Hill School which needs to be preserved.

Support can be offered to Bob Geisel at 70 Pigeon Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095, Tel. 688-2304.



FYLER HOUSE

On the eve of a new building program that will bring about significant changes in daily operations here at our headquarters, I wondered how our earlier members responded or reacted to the purchase of Fyler House in 1925. Quoted below are excerpts from a 2½ page report of George E. Crosby, Jr., President and Founder of The Windsor Historical Society, Inc., in the September 26th, 1925 Annual Report.

"The end of the fourth year finds your Society in its most satisfactory and promising period so far. We have a most delightful home of our own with an appropriately furnished guest chamber, facilities for recreation, study and refreshment, and two most gracious and estimable hostesses in charge. We have a substantial corps of capable, reliable and interested workers within our organization and a host of new but dependable friends throughout the country.

Following the death of Frank H. Denslow, not very long after that of his wife (both were valued members of our Society), their late home on Palisado Avenue came upon the market. This was a historic place indeed, being apparently the oldest house in Windsor, the earliest part of it having been built by Sergeant (later Lieut.) Walter Fyler in 1640 on land within the Palisado granted him in recognition of his services in the Pequot War (He later served in King Philip's War and at his death in 1683 bequeathed the homestead to his son John, from whom it passed to Thomas Fyler, thereafter being owned in turn by Alexander Allin, Captain Nathaniel Howard, Miss Lucretia Stiles and sisters Mrs. William S. Pierson and Miss Olive Pierson. The latter made it a wedding gift to Frank M. Denslow, from whose estate this Society purchased it May 1, 1925).

When the possibility of purchasing the property was first brought to the attention of the Executive Committee it was decided that the possession without restrictions of the original George E. Hoadley Fund of \$5000, with its increase, warrant-

ed an endeavor to secure subscription of an amount sufficient to acquire, restore and equip the Homestead--not as a museum, a purpose for which its frame construction made it unsuitable--but as a shrine for the sons and daughters of Windsor and their descendants everywhere, and a place of rest and refreshment for them.

With the initial contribution we instituted the "Fund for the Purchase, Restoration and Endowment of the Lieutenant Walter Fyler Homestead, the administration of the Fund and the development of the property being entrusted to a Committee of: Leland P. Wilson, Chairman; Frances Bissell, Mrs. Eustace L. Allen, Alice E. Morgan, Mrs. Clayton P. Chamberlin, Charles H. Willcox and Leslie H. Hayes.

A subject I approach with the keenest personal feeling is the loss through death of dear friends who have bequeathed to us a spirit to "carry on" so long as the purposes to be attained are truly worth their cost in time and effort. We must not fail our departed ones by allowing our Society to function merely as a soulless repository of antiques and curiosities. Rather we must plan more broadly to give real human service in a world which needs it sadly.

Your officers have larger plans for the future--plans whose development will never give you less pride in our Society than we trust you have now, but it does not seem fitting to speak more definitely of these while we have still an encumbrance on our Society home."

Mr & Mrs Samuel T Hinckley
209 Palisado Avenue
Windsor CT 06095

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

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Essenfeld
Miss Judith L. Osborn
Mr. William A. Merrill
Ms Ethel O. Walldorff
Mrs. Marion Medling Locke
Mrs. G. Elizabeth Rice
Mrs. William H. Schoner
Mr. Michael S. Whitner
Mrs. Ruth C. Gilbert Whitner
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Ramanauskas
Ms Lynne A. Kent
Mrs. Dyth-Mary Egleston
Mrs. A. Louise Jeffers
Mr. Richard J. Burns
Mr. Donald P. Moore, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Indermark
Mrs. H. Martin Tenney
Mr. Richard Allen Fyler
Mr. Condra H. Miller

NEW ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR STARTS WORK

Carol Ann Stephenson (Mrs. William G.) has been hired by the Society as Assistant to the Director. She started work on Tuesday, Sept. 1st and will work 4 days a week, Tuesday through Friday.

Carol Ann has been a member of the Society since 1976 and has served on the Board of Directors since 1980, the last four years as Vice-

President and currently on the Building Committee. During this period she has been an active volunteer, this summer volunteering an average of two days a week, assisting the Director and Jane Finley with museum and library records.

Our upcoming building program, along with the responsibility of 'behind the scenes' record keeping that is so important to a well managed and successful historical society, will be greatly enhanced by Carol Ann's expert ongoing contribution.



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: George L. M. Christopher

Director: Robert T. Silliman