

**A NEW HISTORY**  
*of*  
**OLD WINDSOR**  
**Connecticut**



**DANIEL HOWARD**  
**1935**

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1928

Property of

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Morris

Et.

## THE ELLSWORTH HOMESTEAD

Standing serenely in its spacious grounds, the Ellsworth Homestead looks out upon the busy traffic of Palisado Avenue on the outskirts of Windsor, Connecticut. For more than three centuries it has stood there, amid the fine old trees, and witnessed the many changes that time has brought to New England and, in fact, to all parts of our nation.

In October, this dignified and beautiful house, a gift from the Ellsworth heirs, will have belonged to the Connecticut Society for fifty years. Plans are being made to suitably observe this "Golden Jubilee".

The Connecticut Daughters are justly proud of this, their so-called "Home", where meetings, picnics and numerous D. A. R. activities are carried on regularly.

On weekdays from May to December, the Homestead is open to tourists who may be shown through it for the small sum of 25c. For members of the D. A. R. there is no charge.

The Homestead, best known as the home of the famous Chief Justice, Oliver Ellsworth, was built in 1740. An ell was added later in the 1800's. It has 15 rooms, all furnished in the tradition of early Colonial America. Many beautiful and valuable pieces of furniture, china, glass etc. have found their way into the various rooms. Wide boarded floors and wallpaper in colonial style are notable features. In the attic are spinning wheels, old saddles and other reminders of the days when the place was young.

Two Presidents of the United States, George Washington and John Adams, visited the Homestead during their terms of office. They were close friends of Justice Ellsworth.

Turning from the bygone and historic to the practical present, we find that the Ellsworth Homestead, though liberally endowed and the recipient of several substantial gifts of money, requires more funds that it may be properly maintained in these days of high living costs.

Therefore, in the coming year an effort will be made to raise a special amount for this purpose.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Swanson for four years have been the completely adequate caretakers of the Homestead. It is beautifully kept. The Swansons, who have great respect for history and its monuments, are especially fitted to have charge of the house and its treasures.

Recently a large lawn mower costing over \$500 had to be purchased. With this modern convenience, Mr. Swanson will be able to keep in order the three acres of lawn belonging to the estate.

Through a gift from Mrs. Matthies, mother of Miss Katharine Matthies, a pavilion in which to hold large D. A. R. gatherings was built on the rear of the grounds. The building contains a large auditorium, ante rooms, a kitchen, basement rooms and lavatories. Recently a heating plant, the joint gift of the Regents and Officers Club and Miss Matthies, was installed. This will substantially increase its value as a meeting place at all seasons of the year.

Definite steps are being taken by the Board of Directors, with the State Regent as President, to arouse keener interest in this important historic place and to attract more tourists to it. Nowhere in New England is there a spot more worthwhile than this dignified, fine old Homestead, which played so important a role in the days of our country's infancy.

—H.W.T.

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# A NEW HISTORY

*of*

# OLD WINDSOR

Connecticut



DANIEL HOWARD

1935

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The Journal Press, Windsor Locks, Conn.

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# Foreword

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This book is an outgrowth of the studies carried on preceding and during the year 1933, when the Ancient Town of Windsor celebrated the Tercentenary of its settlement. As a feature of that celebration the author, who was serving as Chairman of the Tercentenary Committee appointed by the town and who as President of the Windsor Historical Society had co-operated with others in considerable historical local research, was asked to write a small book of a character appropriate for publication as a souvenir of the Tercentenary occasion.

That book was published under the title, "Glimpses of Ancient Windsor." Much other valuable material was also collected which could not be used in the small volume of one hundred pages. Now when the entire State of Connecticut is celebrating the Tercentenary of its establishment it has seemed proper to issue a larger book as a part of Windsor's contribution to the historic significance of this year. Such is one excuse for this New History of Old Windsor.

As we said two years ago so now we repeat: There has been no striving for literary merit at the expense of fidelity to facts. Windsor's history can claim pre-eminence without literary embellishment. The first English settlement in Connecticut, the outstanding leader in creating and developing the institutions and agencies of government, the home of governors, jurists, statesmen, theologians, educators, inventors, and successful merchants, and industrialists, she has created a history that tells itself. These pages are not dedicated to fulsome praise. They portray every day human life and such life is never perfect. Human foibles and frailties show among the stern, the rugged, and the noblest qualities and aspirations.

It is hoped that all will combine and blend to produce a true picture of the Ancient Town and its contribution to progress and improvement.

May all who read these stories have a greater admiration for those who struggled in the past and become more eager to maintain and defend those principles of liberty, justice, law, order and good government which have made the name of our town and our state highly honored and which must be maintained for the sake of the honor and happiness of our citizens in the future.

DANIEL HOWARD.

Windsor, Connecticut, May 1, 1935.

## Notes

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At the time Windsor was settled (1633) the new year began on March 25. This will explain why in the early records an occurrence recorded in December may be followed a month or two months later by an occurrence reported in January or February of the same year. In 1752 the Parliament of Great Britain ordered that the day following September 3 should be called September 14 on the calendar, and that the new year should begin on January 1. Dates between 1600 and 1700 had ten days added on the calendar to make them conform to the new calendar. Dates between 1700 and 1752 required the addition of eleven days. Dates occurring between January 1 and March 25 from 1600 to 1752 were often marked as belonging to two years, as January 15, 1638-9, indicating that they might with equal propriety be regarded as coming at the end of the old year or the beginning of the new year.

Early documents both written and printed differed in both spelling and the type of letters used from what is common today. A few of these documents are reproduced with all their peculiarities. Two letters deserve special mention. The so called long s was made to resemble an f but lacked a part of the cross mark being made like this f. We have reproduced this f in only a few of the older documents and modernized the letter in later reproductions.

Y is especially puzzling to the uninitiated. This character represented y as in by and th as in ye. In the second case it is a form of the Anglo-Saxon letter thorn and was pronounced as th. It occurs in Colonial documents in such words as ye—the; yt—that; yr—their; yrto—thereto; oyr—other; fayr—father. In signatures F is sometimes represented by ff.

Omitted letters were common as o<sup>r</sup> for our, w<sup>th</sup> for with, Cap<sup>n</sup> for Captain and many others.

# Discovery and Settlement

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If we are to date the history of Ancient Windsor from the time when it was first visited by Europeans we must start with the year 1614. In that year Adriaen Block, a Dutch sea captain, one of the little band that had recently begun the settlement of New York, started out to explore the northern shore of Long Island Sound. He discovered the Connecticut River, which he named the Fresh River, and sailed up it as far as Windsor where he saw an Indian village at a point which he recorded as in 41 degrees and 48 minutes north latitude.

As a result of this discovery the Dutch believed that they had a right to settle the Connecticut valley. England, however, claimed the whole of New England as a part of the discovery made by Sebastian Cabot in 1498. This situation was destined to lead to rivalry between the English and the Dutch.

The first permanent settlement was made by the English at Windsor on September 26, 1633. How did it come about?

In 1631 war was going on between the River Indians, who lived in the Connecticut valley, and the Pequot Indians, who lived in the Thames valley. The Pequots were much stronger than the River Indians and Pekoath, the Pequot sachem, had driven Nattawanut and other River sachems from their homes. It looked as if all the River Indians would soon be driven away or destroyed. In their distress the Indians living in that part of the valley which is now Windsor looked to the white men for protection. They had heard of the settlement that had been made at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620, and of several other settlements that had just been made at and around Boston. They decided to send Wahginnacut, one of their sachems, to visit these settlements. When the Indians arrived in Boston they told their story to Governor Winthrop and invited him to send a colony of Englishmen to settle near them promising that every year the Indians would give their white neighbors eighty beaver skins and all the corn they needed. Governor Winthrop listened to their story but would promise nothing.

The Indians next visited Governor Winslow at Plymouth and repeated their story and their invitation to send a colony of settlers to the beautiful and fertile Connecticut valley. Their reception at Plymouth was more favorable than their reception at Boston. Governor Winslow was intensely interested and soon made a journey to the home of his Indian visitors. He found that all they had told him about the fertility of the soil, the abundance of fish, the game and the fur bearing animals, and other attractions of the new country was true. The next year another expedition was sent from Plymouth to continue the exploration of the Connecticut valley before a final decision should be made. Later a delegation from Plymouth suggested to the Massachusetts Bay colony that the two groups should jointly try their fortune in this land of promise. The Bay colony refused but we now know that they planned to go there alone. The Plymouth people, however, were both ambitious and energetic and they decided to wait no longer. Early in 1633 they began their preparations for a settlement.

They decided that the first house to be erected should be a trading house for they hoped to carry on a profitable trade with the Indians. Then they went into the woods of Plymouth and cut down trees from which they hewed the necessary timber and boards. After fitting all the timber for the framework and collecting the other necessary material they placed them all on board "a large new bark" and were ready to start.

Governor Winslow appointed Lieutenant William Holmes commander of the vessel. Besides the white men, Nattawanut and other Indian sachems had come on board in order to return to their homes from which the Pequots had driven them. They sailed to the mouth of the Connecticut and up the river until they reached the place where the city of Hartford stands today. There they found a Dutch fort. The Dutch traders from Manhattan Island had heard that the English were coming to make a settlement and they had built a fort in order to get ahead of them and thus prevent their settling in the Connecticut valley.

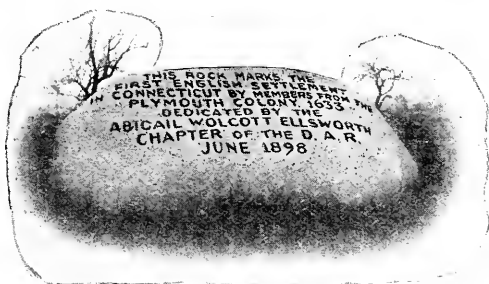
When Lieutenant Holmes' vessel was opposite the fort the Dutch commander called out, "Strike your colors or we will fire upon you!" Holmes replied, "I have the commission of the

governor of Plymouth to go up the river and I shall go." He sailed past the fort and the Dutch did not dare to fire. The little band continued up the river until they reached the mouth of another river about six miles above the fort. Here they landed and erected their trading house and surrounded it with a palisade.

When Wouter Van Twiller, the Dutch governor at New Amsterdam, heard what the English had done in the Connecticut valley above his fort he sent seventy soldiers to drive them back. The English saw the soldiers coming with flags waving and every indication of a battle. Hurriedly they prepared for the attack but when the Dutch saw that they meant to fight and could not be frightened they turned back, went home, and troubled the English settlement no more.

The trading house erected by William Holmes stood near the junction of the Connecticut River and the Farmington a short distance south of the present Loomis School. The site is marked by a rock on which may be read this inscription: **THIS ROCK MARKS THE FIRST ENGLISH SETTLEMENT IN CONNECTICUT BY MEMBERS FROM THE PLYMOUTH COLONY, 1633.**

**DEDICATED BY THE ABIGAIL WOLCOTT ELLSWORTH CHAPTER OF THE D. A. R., JUNE, 1898.**



BOULDER MARKING SITE OF FIRST SETTLEMENT IN 1633

The Plymouth settlers purchased of the Indians three tracts of land, the first on the west side of the Connecticut River between the present site of Hartford and the Farmington River; the second on the east side of the Connecticut River between the Scantic River and the present village of Warehouse

Point; and the third between the Farmington River and Hayden.

During the next two years they had little opportunity to extend their settlement nor was there much opportunity for trade with the Indians because the Dutch, tho no longer openly hostile, were their rivals in trade and within a few months had sent their emissaries up the river twenty-five or thirty miles in order to secure the fur trade of the natives farther north and thus prevent it from falling into the hands of the English.

A sad fate befell this enterprise. Before the winter was over small-pox had destroyed more than nine hundred-fifty of the thousand Indians living west of Springfield, with whom the Dutch traders had hoped to do a good business, and the traders themselves were fortunate in being able to make their way back to the Plymouth trading house where they were kindly welcomed and received entertainment and care for several days till they were able to return to their friends at Hartford.

A few weeks later the dreaded small-pox broke out among the Indians living near the trading house and their chief sachem and almost his entire tribe perished before the summer. For many weeks the Plymouth settlers nursed and cared for their stricken Indian friends and buried those who died. Fortunately not one of the white men contracted the terrible disease that proved so fatal to the natives. Another year passed and left no detailed record of what was going on in the infant settlement.

In the spring of 1635 the colony emerged into the brighter light of history. A letter written by Jonathan Brewster in July shows that for some time explorers and would be settlers from Massachusetts Bay had been coming to Matianuck, as the new settlement was then called, "almost dayly." These men were given food and shelter at the trading house, furnished with canoes and guides, and assisted in their desire "to view ye countrie" and to select a favorable site on which to make a settlement of their own. One bitter complaint, however, came from the settlers of Matianuck. Many of the newcomers showed a disposition to ignore the rights of the Plymouth settlers and to deprive them of some of the land that they had

already bought from the Indians. By July the controversy had narrowed down to the banks of the Farmington River and especially the Great Meadow on the north side of the river "which was last bought." Mr. Brewster declares in his letter, "I shall do what I can to withstand them. I hope they will listen to reason . . . we were here first . . . and bought the land" and the expense and trouble already incurred "may give us just cause to hold and keep that we are settled upon."

They did keep what they were settled upon, which was their first purchase and their fortified house in Plymouth Meadow, but they had to compromise with regard to the Great Meadow on the north side of the Farmington.

The new comers, who had come from Dorchester, Massachusetts, determined to hold the Great Meadow until they could decide whether or not it was the best place on which to establish their settlement. Before proceeding with the actual work of erecting homes for themselves and making plans for others who were to follow them, a part of their number set out to explore the river and its west bank farther north. When the members of this expedition returned in a few days they were greatly surprised to find that another band of settlers had arrived during their absence.

This third band of pioneers had come from England to establish a settlement by virtue of a patent or deed from the Earl of Warwick, President of the Council for New England.

The land embraced in this deed included a strip one hundred twenty miles wide from Long Island Sound to the northward and reaching from Rhode Island on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west. The group of people who came to America to settle under this patent were known as the Lords and Gentlemen. About twenty of their number under the leadership of Mr. Francis Stiles had come up the Connecticut river from the vicinity of Saybrook, which they had selected as one site for a settlement. They, too, found the Great Meadow an attractive place for a new home and when they found the men from Plymouth already established at Matianuck, and the men from Dorchester now convinced that the north side of the

Farmington was their future abode, they promptly told both groups that they were trespassers and that they, the Lords and Gentlemen, had come to take possession of the place and settle it themselves.

The controversy that followed was finally settled by dividing the land north of the Farmington. The people from Dorchester took the south part near the river and the Stiles party settled farther north in the vicinity of the present Ellsworth home, the headquarters of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution. Both parties were soon busy preparing dug-outs in which to spend the winter on the side of the hill overlooking the meadows.

As it was the Dorchester party that comprised by far the largest number and exercised the greatest influence in laying the foundations of the Ancient Town of Windsor it is proper that we inquire somewhat into their origin and character.

Let us go back to Old England and the year 1630. Charles the First then occupied the throne and ruled without respect to Parliament as an absolute and irresponsible monarch. His kingdom was torn with civil and religious strife. Puritans and dissenters from the decrees and practices of the established church, of which the king claimed to be the head, were crushed with despotic cruelty. His father, James the First, had issued this warning to the Puritans: "I will make them conform or I will harry them out of the land." King Charles and his helpers and advisers attempted to make good this threat. The king's philosophy was fittingly expressed in his own words, which he later uttered as he stood upon the scaffold prepared for death: "Their (the people's) liberty and freedom consists in having government; . . . it is not in their having a share in the government; that is nothing pertaining to them."

Civil and religious liberty could not be had in England. It might be found in America. That was the spur that drove thousands across the ocean. Among those who undertook the hazardous voyage in the year 1630 was a band of Puritans, one hundred forty in number, from Devonshire and adjoining counties in southern England. They set sail from Plymouth on the 20th of March in the good ship Mary and John. The story



of their sailing and their organization as an independent church society is best told in the words of one of their own number, Mr. Roger Clap, who recorded it in his memoirs. He says:

"I gave you a hint toward the beginning, that I came out of Plymouth in Devon, the 20th of March, and arrived at Nantasket (now Hull) the 30th of May, 1630. Now this is further to inform you that there came many Godly families in that ship. We were of passengers many in number (besides seamen) of good rank. Two of our magistrates came with us, viz.: Mr. Rossiter and Mr. Ludlow. These Godly people resolved to leave together; and therefore as they had made choice of those two Reverend Servants of God, Mr. John Warham and Mr. John Maverick to be their ministers, so they kept a solemn Day of Fasting in New Hospital in Plymouth in England, spending it in preaching and praying: where that worthy man of God, Mr. John White of Dorchester in Dorset, was present and preached unto us the word of God, in the fore part of the day, and in the latter part of the day, as the people did solemnly make choice of and call those Godly ministers to be their officers, so also the Revd. Mr. Warham and Mr. Maverick did accept thereof and expressed the same. So we came, 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."

The members of this church established themselves at Massachusetts Bay and named their settlement Dorchester. Here they remained five years. But their new home was not entirely congenial to these lovers of liberty. The group of settlements around Massachusetts Bay was dominated by clergymen and officials of aristocratic tendencies. Their governor, John Winthrop, declared "The best part (of the people) is always the least, and of that best part the wiser part is always the lesser." The Rev. John Cotton put it more bluntly when he said, "Never did God ordain democracy for the government of the church or people."

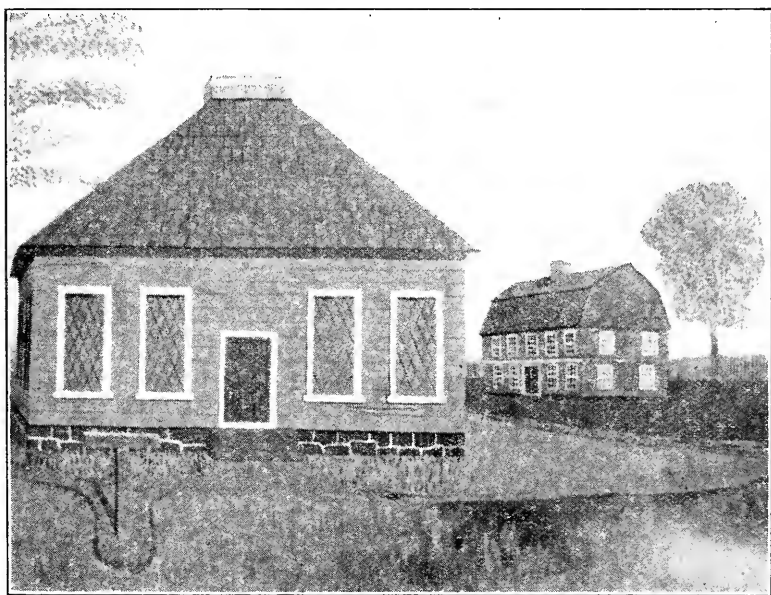
Such principles were repugnant to the leaders of the Dorchester church as they were to many others in the Bay settlements. Impelled by a desire to live under a more democratic

government John Warham, Roger Ludlow, Bray Rossiter, Henry Wolcott, John Mason, Matthew Grant, and their associates turned their attention toward the fertile meadows of the Connecticut valley. The advance guard including Roger Ludlow reached the Plymouth trading house in the Spring or summer of 1635. It was this group that explored the region and engaged in controversy with the Plymouth settlers and the Lords and Gentlemen. A little later about sixty men, women and children came overland with their "cows, heifers, and swine." The winter was so severe and food so scarce that many returned to Massachusetts. In the spring they came again with other friends and by April 1636 most of the Dorchester church and their pastor, John Warham, were settled near the Farmington River, in the vicinity of the present Palisado Green, and along the brow of the hill that overlooks the "Great Meadow." Like the settlement they had left in Massachusetts their new settlement was named Dorchester. Until they could prepare or procure the material for better homes they were obliged to live in rude shelters consisting of cellar like rooms excavated in the side of the rising ground along the edge of the meadow or the river bank. The rear end and the two sides of each dug-out were simply the earth itself, partly that which had been undisturbed and partly that which had been taken out of the excavation. The roof of beams and poles was thatched with wild grass. They probably placed hewn planks upon the floor, but we have no record to prove this. The front end was also without doubt protected by hewn boards or stakes.

In the following year, 1637, danger from the Pequot Indians led all the settlers to abandon their dug-outs on the "sandy bank" and come together on and around the area now known as the Palisado Green. Their new homes were at once enclosed with a strong palisado.

For the first two years at least these settlers had no suitable meeting house in which to hold religious services. We can only guess at the character of their meeting places. In warm weather they doubtless assembled out of doors and probably under the shade of some friendly tree.

In 1639 they began the construction of their first real meeting house. It stood in the center of their palisaded enclosure about where the present memorial to the Dorchester Pioneers was erected in 1930. It was not completed until several years later. References in the early records indicate that it was a rough wooden structure about seventy feet long and thirty-six feet wide. It was covered with hewn clapboards and had glass window panes and a thatched roof with a cupola and a platform extending from the cupola along the ridge for some distance on which the sexton beat a drum to summon the people to attend religious services or public meetings.



THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE

Within was found the pulpit at the rear with pews on each side for the magistrates. In front of the pulpit was a space for the communion table and chairs. Other pews for the elders and deacons faced this space. Then came nine rows of seats for the men and nine rows for the women, each seat intended to accommodate six persons. On each side of the room were thirteen short raised seats each intended for three persons.

Of course there were aisles between the short and the long seats. The men occupied one side of the room and the women the other side. Above the short seats were galleries for the children. Thus the seating capacity was about two hundred exclusive of the galleries.

The officers whose duty it was to "seat the meeting house," or assign the seats to those who paid the assessments prescribed, had a difficult task to perform, for the best seats were supposed to be assigned to those persons who merited distinction because of their dignity and importance.

About the same time that the meeting house was started a "corn mill" was built and presented to the pastor, the Rev. John Warham. In 1640 the town voted to give Pastor Warham two acres of land to go with the mill, which still stands at the junction of Poquonock Avenue and East Street. Since its construction it has undergone many reconstructions and changes and now shows little resemblance to the original mill of 1640. It is supposed to be the first grist mill built in Connecticut and for many years it served all the settlements in the river valley as far south as Middletown.

# Expansion

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Within a few months after their settlement the first group of Dorchester people began to purchase land for future expansion. On April 15, 1636, they made their first purchase from the Indians. This comprised the present town of South Windsor and was bounded on the south by the Podunk River and on the north by the Scantic River and extended from the Connecticut River east one day's walk, which must have included according to the implications of later documents the northern part of Manchester, Bolton, and Coventry, together with Vernon and part of Tolland. The price paid was twenty coats and fifteen fathoms of wampum. William Brewster and his son Jonathan were friendly witnesses to this deed from their Indian neighbors to their new neighbors from Dorchester.

One year later, on May 15, 1637, the Dorchester settlement, which had now received the name of Windsor, acquired the title to fifteen-sixteenths of all the land that the Plymouth people had purchased on the west side of the Connecticut River extending from Hartford north as far as the present Hayden Station schoolhouse and west seven miles into the wilderness. In addition the Plymouth people deeded to Windsor all the land that they had purchased on the east side of the Connecticut. This included the tract between the Scantic River and Warehouse Point and extended somewhat indefinitely to the east.

## **New Plymouth Sale to Dorchester.**

The record of this transaction is to be found in Vol. I., Page 227, Windsor Land Records, and reads, (in its original spelling and punctuation) :

An agreement made Between Mr. Thomas Prince, for, and on behalf of New Plimouth in America, and the inhabitnts of Windfor, on the River of Connecticut in the said America the 15th day of May, 1637—

—: on Consideration of 37£-10s-0 to be paid about three months hence, the said Mr. Prince doth sell unto the inhabitance of Windsor, all that Land meadow and upland, from a

marked a tree a quarter of a mile above Mr. Styles: North to the great swamp next the bounds of Hartford South for bredth, and in Length into the Country toward Paquanack So far as Lequaifon and Nattawanet Who Sachems hath or had (as proprietes) all of which hath been purchased of the Sd Lequaifon and Nattawanet, for a valluable Consideration the perticulers whereof do appear, in a note now produced by the said Mr. Prince, always Excepted and Reserved, to the house of the said New-Pimouth, 43 acres of meadow and 3 quarters and in upland on the other Side of the Swamp, neer their meadow, 40 acres, viz, 40 rod in bredth and in Length 160 rods into the Country, for the present, and after wards as other Lotts are Laid out, they are to have their proportion within their bounds aforefd ther is Like wise Excepted: 70 rods in bredth towards the bounds of the Sd. Hartford in an Indifferant place to be agreed upon, and to go in Length to the End of the bounds, aforefd, In witness whereof the parties abovefd have Set their hands and seals, the day and year above written,

This Bargain as it is above Expreft, and was written and afsigned I can Certainly Testifie dos not mention or Speek to Every perticuler, of the bargain as it was Issued with Mr. Prince, before it was put in writing.

Following this record is the accompanying note:  
 Writing:—th's shuld have been the frame of it Dorchester men that came from the Mafsachufet bay up here to Connecticut to settle in the place now called Windsor, Plymouth men Challenged propriety here, by a purchas of the Land from the Indians, whereupon in the Latter end of the 35 year Some of our Principle men meeting with some of Plymouth men in Dorchester, Labcred to Drive a Bargain with them to buy out them, which they challenged by purchas, and Came to Termes, and then May 37 as is above Expreft, then our Company being Generally together (that Intended to settle here) Mr. Prince being come here, in the behalf of Plymouth men, that were partners in their purchas, Issued the bargain with us, we were to pay them 37£-10 S. for their whole purchas, which mr. Prince, presented to us in writing, only they reserved the 16th part of for themselves and their 16th part in meadow, Land came by

measuring of ye meadows to 43 acres 3 quarters, which was bounded out to Mr. Prince he being present, by my self appointed by our Company in Plimouth meadow so called by that account, their 16th part in upland they took up near the bounds of Hartford, 70 rod in breadth by ye River and so to Continue to the End of the bounds, they were also to have one acre to build on, upon the Hill, against their meadow:—Also Mr. Prince Said he had purchas'd the Land on the East Side of the River that Lyes between Scantick and Nemarick, and, that we should have in Lew of 40 rod in breadth of upland, behind the Swamp against their meadow, and to run in Length: 160 rod, from the Swamp, to be forty acres, and after ward to have their proportion within their bounds, according to a forty acre man, in the Commons! this I witness,

MATHEW GRANT

William Phelps was the first of the Dorchester group to purchase land of the Indians on the west side of the Connecticut. His purchase included land along the Farmington River as far west as Poquonock. A generation later the inhabitants of Windsor rebought the land in order to satisfy the claims of the Indians.

The next addition extended north from Hayden Station to Stony Brook in Suffield and from the Connecticut River west to the west side of Simsbury mountains. This was purchased "about the time of the Pequot War," from the sachem Tehano. This purchase was confirmed forty years later by a deed from Quashabuck, his daughter, and Aushqua, her son.

In 1642 John Mason of Windsor bought of Nassahegan all his land between Poquonock and Simsbury. Ten acres constituting "a certain neck of land lying at Poquonock" was still in the possession of the Indians in 1659 when it was purchased by George Griswold, who soon afterward purchased two acres more at Indian Neck and a tract of marsh land near Simsbury. Samuel Marshall and Jonathan Gillet purchased small tracts near the Farmington River. In 1666 James Eno and John Moses purchased from Nassahegan land on both sides of the Farmington River from Windsor to Simsbury. This purchase covered about twenty-eight thousand acres.

In 1670 Aramamet resold or confirmed to Windsor the land that his predecessor, Nattawanut, had sold to the Plymouth settlers in 1633, covering everything from Hartford to Poquonock.

King's Island, near the Enfield falls, which is known to have been owned by the Rev. Ephraim Huit as early as 1642 (January, 1641, old style), was repurchased of the Indians by John Lewis, June 26, 1678. This completed the purchases from the Indians on the west side of the Connecticut River.

Coggerynosset, a Poquonock sachem, placed on record a statement that Nassacowen had sold all of the land east of the Great River between the Scantic River and Namerick Brook (Warehouse Point) to the English for a nominal price because of his pleasure in having them for neighbors, and in 1687, Toto, Grandson of Nassacowen, confirmed the sale to agents of the town of Windsor. This is the tract of land that the Plymouth people said they had bought on the east side of the Connecticut before the arrival of the Dorchester people and that they included in their deed to Windsor on May 15, 1637.

In 1660 John Bissell, Jr., bought of Watshemino all his "planting land from Namerick Brook upward by the Great River" for fifty fathoms of wampum. In 1671 Thomas and Nathaniel Bissell acting as agents for Windsor bought from the chief of the Namerick Indians a tract covering most of the present town of Enfield, the larger part of East Windsor, and all of Ellington. In March, 1693, Towtops sold to Nathaniel Bissell one hundred acres covering the south part of the present village of Warehouse Point. This was the last purchase on the east side of the Connecticut River.

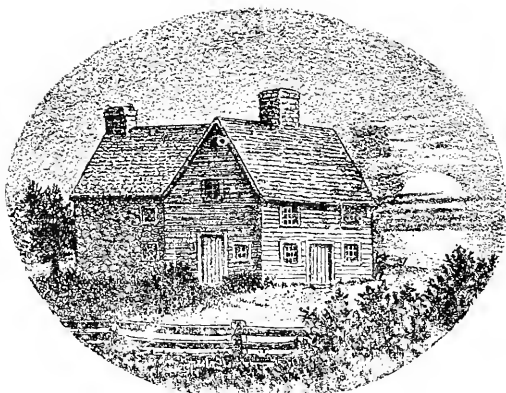
Windsor's expansion did not wholly cease, however, with the purchase of land from the Indians. The original territory covered by the purchases we have mentioned comprised between 150,000 and 175,000 acres, or more than 250 square miles. Before the last of these purchases was made the process of division into smaller towns had begun but additional land came under the jurisdiction of Windsor from time to time. In 1676 Joshua, son of Uncas, son-in-law of Aramamet, and



sachem of the Niantics, by his will gave large tracts of land to residents of Hartford and Windsor. These tracts were east of the land that Windsor had purchased. In 1723 the legislature granted to Windsor 8000 acres north of the land bequeathed by the will of Joshua. This was to make up the "equivalent" of land that Windsor had lost to Suffield and Enfield by the establishment of the boundary line between Connecticut and Massachusetts, which at that time had jurisdiction over the two towns to the north of Windsor.

In 1713 the heirs of Thomas Burnham transferred to the town of Windsor for the purpose of promoting settlement part of a tract lying to the south of the land purchased by Windsor from the Indians on April 15, 1636, and which we have called the South Windsor purchase. The tract conveyed was bounded beginning at its southwest corner, which was eight miles east of the Connecticut River and two miles farther south than the mouth of the Podunk, by a line running east to the Willimantic River, then north until it met with an east and west line drawn from the mouth of the Scantic, then following this line to the land already owned by Windsor, then following the line of the Windsor claim to the starting point.

In 1686 Windsor also was granted a large tract of "Western Land" to prevent its anticipated sequestration by Sir Edmund Andros, then Royal Governor of New England. In 1717 the town of Litchfield was created out of this territory. Title to the rest of it was confirmed to Windsor by the legislature in 1732. It included the present towns of Colebrook, Barkhamstead, Torrington, and the western half of Harwinton.



THE STOUGHTON HOUSE  
OR  
OLD STONE FORT

This was a refuge from Indian attacks in the days of Expansion.

## Division

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Before we continue the story of Windsor's activities as a town it seems fitting to speak of the division of her vast territory in order that we may understand how much was really included under the name of Windsor proper at any subsequent period in her history.

In 1670, Simsbury, until then a part of the Ancient Town, having received many of her early settlers from the Windsor families who had left the parent settlement on the banks of the Connecticut, desired a separate local government and became a separate town. From Simsbury, Granby, which then included part of the present town of East Granby, was set off in 1786.

In 1712 Coventry was incorporated without any apparent necessity for action on the part of Windsor, which had never exercised actual control over any part of this territory in spite of the fact that some of it was included in the deeds referred to in the chapter on expansion. The same lack of actual control by Windsor holds true in the case of Vernon and Manchester, which were organized still later. The settlement of the boundary line between Massachusetts and Connecticut deprived Windsor of all her territory within the present limits of Enfield and Suffield. In 1642 the Massachusetts Bay colony had employed two surveyors, Woodward and Saffery, to establish the line between Massachusetts and Connecticut. These surveyors had placed the line so far south that both Enfield and Suffield were included in the Massachusetts colony. In fact Massachusetts claimed that her line was about two miles farther south than the present southern boundary of these two towns. Connecticut declared that the line was too far south. The dispute and controversy that followed lasted until 1713, when a new line, the present boundary, was established by a compromise.

This line gave Enfield and Suffield to Connecticut, and Windsor surrendered her claim to territory within these towns in exchange for 8000 acres granted her under the "equivalent" settlement made in 1723 and described in the chapter on Ex-

pansion. In 1715 Windsor laid out the town of Tolland under the authority of the General Court. In 1719 Litchfield was organized out of Windsor's "Western land." Bolton, whose settlement was begun about 1716, was incorporated as a town in 1720 and divided to create the town of Vernon in 1808. Harwinton became an independent town in 1737. In 1740 Torrington, until then a part of Windsor's "Western land," was made a separate town. In 1767 East Windsor presented the following petition to the parent town:

### East Windsor's Petition

To the Selectmen of Windsor in the County of Hartford:

Whereas the Town of Windsor is very large and of great extent east and west and lies partly on the west and partly on the east side of the great River w<sup>ch</sup> makes it very difficult for the Inhabitants to attend the publick meetings of s<sup>d</sup> Town & utterly Impossible to take proper care of the public affairs of the Town & therefore we the Subscribers Inhabitants of s<sup>d</sup> Town would humbly move that the Select men of s<sup>d</sup> Windsor would cause legal warning to be given to the Inhabitants of s<sup>d</sup> Windsor to meet at the Meeting House of ye first society in said Windsor on the first Monday of December next then & there to consider whether they will vote to divide Said Town of Windsor at the great River into two towns an apply to the General Assembly in May next for an Act for that Purpose.

Dated at Windsor, October 2d, 1767

Wm. Wolcott  
Erastus Wolcott  
Joseph Newberry  
Zeb King  
Benjamin Newberry  
Thomas Foster  
Amasa Loomis  
Joel Lomis  
Nathl Lomis  
Samuel Pinney  
Samuel Gibbs  
Abrm Foster  
Nathan Day  
Noah Bissell  
William Bissell

East Windsor was made a separate town in May, 1768. It included Ellington and South Windsor. Ellington was incorporated a separate town in May, 1786. South Windsor was taken from East Windsor and incorporated as a town in May, 1845.

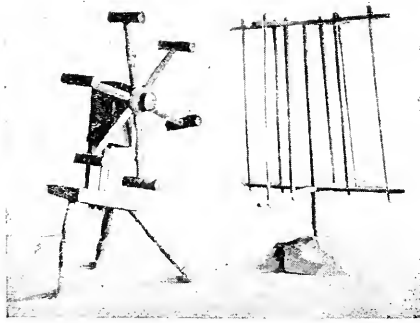
In 1779, two new towns came into being, both of which had been a part of Windsor's "Western land." These were Barkhamstead and Colebrook. Manchester, whose northern boundary was within the territory once deeded to Windsor, was later regarded as a part of East Hartford and was set off from that town in 1823. Wintonbury derived its name from three adjoining towns. It's eastern part was originally within the limits of Ancient Windsor and was known as Greenfield. In 1734 agitation for separate church privileges began. In 1736 thirty-one persons living in this section of Windsor united with eight persons from Farmington and twelve from Simsbury in a petition to be organized into a separate parish for church purposes. The parish took for its name the syllable Win- from Windsor, ton- from Farmington, and bury from Simsbury.

Wintonbury, to which were joined a part of Poquonock parish in Windsor and Scotland parish in Simsbury, was incorporated in 1835 and became the present town of Bloomfield.

In 1854 the settlement at the "Locks" became the town of Windsor Locks. At that time it extended farther west than it does now but in 1858 the west part of the new town was combined with the east part of Granby to form the town of East Granby.

These towns comprise the list of "true daughters" of the Ancient Town but many other communities trace their origin in part to Windsor as the source of their early colonists.

Roger Ludlow and his followers started the settlement of Fairfield in 1639; Colchester, Hebron, and Haddam drew many of their pioneer settlers from Windsor. Windsor also had a prominent part in 1755 in settling Connecticut's Wyoming valley in what is now Pennsylvania, and Windsor, Vermont, and some forty or more other Vermont towns, which were settled by Connecticut emigrants and now bear names that duplicate the names of older communities in Connecticut, drew a large quota from the population of the Ancient Town.



REEL AND SWIFT

These typical hand machines were to be found in almost every home during this period.

# Government

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Until the first month of the year 1636, which under the method of reckoning time then employed by both old England and New England was the month of March, neither the settlers of Windsor (then Dorchester) nor the settlers of the other two river towns, Wethersfield and Hartford (then Watertown and Newtown), had felt the need of any organized civil government. The general cooperation that always prevails and solves and settles the ordinary problems of a well managed family had taken care of the social relations of the larger families that constituted these three pioneer communities. Their church organizations took care of about all the first needs of these little bands so far as they required the direction of established custom and the authority of chosen leaders and teachers. But before they left Massachusetts the threeriver groups that came from Massachusetts Bay had apparently devised a plan for the early organization of a stable civil government. It had been agreed that the settlements should at the outset remain under the authority of the Massachusetts government, which had commissioned them to enter the Connecticut valley.

In March, 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts set up a commission of eight members with Roger Ludlow at their head to govern the river settlements for the space of one year. This commission included William Pyncheon and Henry Smith representing Agawam (now Springfield) within the boundaries of Massachusetts. Altho Agawam maintained close and friendly relations with the Connecticut settlements only one of her commissioners ever met with the others officially, while the Connecticut representatives from the beginning acted upon the assumption that they were partners in a common enterprise. Windsor's two members of this important commission were Roger Ludlow and William Phelps.

About six weeks after the appointment of the commission it held its first meeting at Newtown (Hartford) on April 26, 1636. The meeting was reported in the Colonial Records as "a corte" (a court) and was attended by two commissioners

from Dorchester, two from Newtown, and one from Watertown. Roger Ludlow was president of the court and thus became virtually the first governor of Connecticut, tho the title of governor was not used.

During the term of one year for which the commission had been appointed it held eight meetings, one at Dorchester, one at Watertown, and the rest at the more central location where the first session had been held. At these courts the commissioners performed all the functions of government that the exigencies of the times seemed to them to demand.

Their first recorded official act was the issuing of an order to Henry Stiles of Dorchester to recover before the meeting of the next court a gun that he had traded to an Indian for a supply of corn. It was then declared to be the law for all within the jurisdiction of the court that the sale of fire-arms and ammunition to the Indians should be considered a misdemeanor punishable by a heavy penalty. Thus early did the sale of arms to a potential enemy begin to plague the protectors of the home and the government.

The first court appointed Henry Wolcott constable for Dorchester and other constables for Newtown and Watertown. The courts made rules for the restraint and care of swine and cattle, for the survey of land and the determination of boundaries, for the settlement of disputes, for the distribution of land, for the public safety and military training, for the organization of churches and their membership, for the promotion of social and moral welfare, and for the settlement of estates. Shortly before the close of the year on February 21, 1636, the court fixed the boundaries of the three towns and decreed that henceforth Dorchester should be called Windsor, Watertown should be called Wethersfield, and Newtown should be named Hartford.

On March 28, 1637, the last meeting of the commission as such was held. The next court held at Hartford on May 1 of that year was, it is true, made up of the same men that had served during the first year, but with the addition of other men, who represented their towns as committees. A new designation now appeared at the head of their records. The ses-



sions of this legislative and judicial body were henceforth known as meetings of the General Court. The three towns, which no longer bore the names of the Massachusetts towns from which they had been derived, now constituted the wholly separate colony of Connecticut, tho they still maintained close association with Agawam for trade and for defense against the Indians.

The first official act of the General Court was the declaration of an offensive war against the Pequot Indians. During the second year this modified form of government served the needs of the colony and the commissioners left no record of an attempt to make essential changes in its character. But the leaders saw the need of something better. Those who had served as commissioners saw that it was inadequate for a colony destined to expand and grow. John Warham, pastor of the church at Windsor, Thomas Hooker, pastor of the church at Hartford, and his associate, Samuel Stone, were men of like views. Henry Wolcott of Windsor and John Haynes and Edward Hopkins of Hartford were also valued counselors in all their plans. Pre-eminent, however, above all the rest were Thomas Hooker of Hartford and Roger Ludlow of Windsor. Hooker was the first citizen of the colony and its most highly revered and most influential teacher and leader. Roger Ludlow, the Oxford scholar of high rank and the most brilliant and versatile lawyer in all New England, was his fitting partner in any adventure in statesmanship. These men together gave their best thought to the development of a proper and permanent form of government for the future state of Connecticut.

On May 29, 1638, Roger Ludlow wrote a letter from Windsor to the "governor and brethren of the Massachusetts Bay," in which he reported the fact that plans for a better and more adequate government were under consideration in Connecticut. From what he wrote and from what happened almost immediately in regard to the government of Connecticut and five years later in regard to the Confederation of New England, it is evident that Ludlow was planning first to create a local government for Connecticut, which should enable all the river towns to work together, and then to unite with Massachusetts for

protection against the Dutch, the French, and the Indians, whom he undoubtedly had in mind when he used the word "opposers."

### Roger Ludlow's Letter

With some changes in the quaint language of his message this is the gist of what he wrote: At a recent general assembly of the plantations on the Connecticut river consideration was given to matters that might concern the general good of these parts. The settlers realized that in case of need they would have few friends to aid them and no likelihood of any aid from foreign parts. Therefore it is the part of wisdom to improve our opportunities and to combine and unite ourselves to work and live peaceably and lovingly together so that if there be cause we may join heart and hand to maintain the common cause and to defend our privileges and freedom against all opposers and we doubt not your wisdom will easily conceive that the way to continue our love to each other and to live in peace is to adopt some rules, articles, and agreements by which we may be regulated and to which we may have recourse as the foundation upon which our peace and love may be established.

He closed with a request that John Haines, William Pyncheon, and John Steele acting as commissioners in behalf of Connecticut might come to some agreement with the governor as to what ought to be done. The letter was signed

"R. Ludlowe, in the name of the whole."

If any proof were needed to substantiate the claim that many minds were working together to lay the foundations of a new government, this letter coupled with the action that followed it would seem to furnish that proof.

Just how much credit should be given to each man for the final result of their concerted action we do not know. We only know that Thomas Hooker was the man to whose lot it fell to publish the new plan to Connecticut and the world. The occasion for this historic event was the session of the General Court at Hartford, May 31, 1638, just two days after Roger Ludlow had written his letter to the governor of Massachusetts. To

those assembled at that court Thomas Hooker preached the most famous sermon that has yet been preached in America, a sermon that made his name renowned both in America and in Europe. The subject of his address was "The fundamental Principles of Civil Government." Among other things he said:

That the people have the divine right to appoint their own public officers.

That the people ought to exercise this right thoughtfully and in the fear of God.

That the people who appoint the officers also have the right to say what shall be the powers and duties of the officers that they choose.

Thomas Hooker gave two good reasons for the statements he had made:

The true authority for a government is the free consent of the people.

When the people choose their own rulers they will be more likely to love the persons chosen and more ready to obey them.

Now the project was launched. The next step was to put it into legal form and prepare for its ratification or adoption. There is no record of the appointment of a committee to perform this all important task but a committee did perform the work and we have the result.

Of course the chief legal adviser of the colony, the president of their General Court, the man whose preeminence in legal skill and learning was recognized by all, would do the actual drafting. Of course, also, Roger Ludlow would consult with Hooker, Haynes, Wolcott, Warham, and other leaders with whom he was in close and constant association.

These men took seven months to draw up their plan for a government. When they were ready to make their report, the representatives of the three Connecticut towns met at Hartford to listen to the reading of the new constitution. What changes, if any, they made in this constitution after it was read to them we do not know, but they agreed to adopt it as the plan for their government. It bound the towns together into one independent state and contained eleven general rules called Orders for making all needed laws for the future. These rules

were called the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. Six of the most important principles of this constitution were the following:

All the authority of government comes directly from the people.

The form of government shall consist of a governor, a body of magistrates, and deputies or representatives chosen by the towns.

There shall be no taxation without representation.

The number of men that the towns shall choose to make their laws shall be in proportion to the population of the towns.

All freemen who take an oath to be faithful to the state shall have the right to vote.

New towns may join the three original towns and live under the same government.

This first constitution became the model for all constitutions that have since been adopted in America. Many changes and additions have been made to it in Connecticut, while other states have changed it to suit themselves, but everywhere in the United States and in other republics the teachings of Thomas Hooker and Roger Ludlow have shown men how to form good governments.

At the end of this constitution as given on the colonial records under date of January 14, 1638, we read: "The eleven orders abovesaid are voted." January, which was then the eleventh month of the year, is now the first month and we naturally use the date, January, 1639.

This constitution is regarded as the first in the history of the world that created a new government and prescribed how the people who created it and were to live under it should be governed.

How did it come to be? Can we explain its origin and form? Was it a development and adaptation of laws, principles, and practices with which its authors were already familiar or was it a new creation for a new purpose and a new occasion? It was both.

### Original Sources

Its machinery for governing was mainly the result of adaptation. The town-meeting was an institution centuries old in England. In fact it was in principle the oldest form of civil government known to man and was in common use among the ancient Greeks and Romans. True, in the centuries immediately preceding the emigration of the Connecticut settlers the English town-meeting had lost much of its democratic character, but its history was well known to such men as Ludlow and his associates. Moreover much that the town-meeting had lost in England the parish had preserved and the parish generally coincided with the town in area. The parish taxed itself by means of "church rates" to meet the parish expenses. The parish appointed a clerk to keep the records that would have been kept by a town clerk, and other officers of the parish were the constable, the surveyors of highways, overseers of the poor, wardens who were the counterpart of the modern selectmen, and several more who corresponded to the New England town officers of today.

All these officers and their duties were made a part of the machinery of government in the Massachusetts Bay settlement before the emigration to Connecticut. There were modifications and adaptations to meet new conditions and doubtless Roger Ludlow had helped to draft some of the ordinances by which they were made to serve the purposes of the Massachusetts General Court for in article ten of the Fundamental Orders we find him using practically the same ideas and language that are found in one of the Massachusetts laws adopted in 1634.

But the framers of the Fundamental Orders did not derive all their ideas from the practices of Massachusetts nor from the laws and customs of England. To begin with, the basic concept of the source of authority in government was different in the Fundamental Orders from anything their framers had known in England or in Massachusetts. They had fled from England because of tyranny and oppression—because democracy was suppressed and crushed. They had hoped to find democracy in Massachusetts but they were disappointed. John

Cotton, the oracle of the Bay colony, declared, "Never did God ordain democracy for the government of the church or people." Governor John Winthrop defended a government by the superior few, "because the best part is always the least and of that best part the wiser part is always the lesser." In opposition Thomas Hooker said "In matters which concern the common good a general counsel chosen by all to transact businesses which concern all I conceive under favor most suitable to rule and most safe for the relief of the whole." In Massachusetts none but church members could vote or hold office. Under the Fundamental Orders every properly prepared freeman in Connecticut was a voter. Massachusetts was an aristocracy. Connecticut was a democracy. It was the love of democracy that drove Ludlow, Hooker, and their associates from Massachusetts to Connecticut and caused them to create a new kind of constitution that could make the popular will supreme in civil government.

Then there was the method of expressing that will in the choice of officers. They established the use of the written ballot and devices intended to guard the voter against intimidation before the casting of his vote and revenge or persecution afterwards. Long years and a bitter struggle had to pass before England would tolerate anything of the kind but history credits Thomas Hooker with being its successful advocate in 1639.

Again the form of the document was something new in English history. It had no counterpart in England or in Massachusetts. But it did have a counterpart, tho an imperfect one, in the compact of the Union of Utrecht adopted in 1579 and serving as the virtual constitution of the Dutch Republic during the three years Thomas Hooker had lived in Holland and for more than a century afterwards. This compact can never take away from the Fundamental Orders the distinction they have received of being the first written constitution of their kind and purpose, for the origin, the purpose, and the character of the compact made it distinctly different from the constitution of Connecticut, but the two have similarities enough to suggest that the older document furnished some of the inspiration for the newer.

First there is the preamble of the Pact which sets forth the object of the union of seven states that became the Dutch Republic. The preamble of the Fundamental Orders sets forth the object of the union of Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield. The Pact agrees that the Dutch provinces shall remain eternally united as if they were one province. The Fundamental Orders declare that the people of the three towns "doe therefore associate and conjoyne our selves to be as one Publike State or Commonwealth." Both documents affirmed their intention to maintain and preserve the privileges and practices of the established churches. Both documents made provision that the burden of taxation should be equitably and evenly borne by the people.

When we remember that in the century in which Connecticut was settled the Dutch Republic was the foremost champion of political and religious liberty in Europe and that many of the leaders of the English groups who came to New England had spent years in Holland before crossing the ocean, we are not surprised to find evidences of Dutch influence in the constitution of Connecticut and in the laws, customs, and practices that developed later both in Connecticut and in other colonies. The Dutch declaration of independence made in 1581 was undoubtedly the prototype of our own declaration made in 1776, and our free school system, and many of the practices in our courts of justice and our civil and religious institutions owe much to the land where our fathers were in exile.

### Further Developments

Having adopted the Fundamental Orders Connecticut had a constitution which furnished the foundation and the framework on which to build a model civil government but the details of the superstructure required infinite study, thought, and patience and had to be developed and added thru the years that followed.

Almost immediately, in fact on the very day that the Fundamental Orders were adopted, the General Court passed an ordinance prescribing how the treasurer should disburse the public money and pay bills. One month later another ordi-

nance provided for the appointment of officers to inspect the arms, military equipment, and provisions in each town four times a year and return an inventory to the town court of the arms found defective. William Hill was appointed to perform this duty in Windsor.

On August 15, 1639, it was found necessary to raise a force of one hundred men and lay a tax of one hundred pounds to carry on a punitive expedition against the Indians at Mat-tabeseck (Middletown), where several Indian murderers were said to receive protection from the Indian chief Sowheag. How many men Windsor sent on this expedition is not recorded but Windsor's share of the tax was twenty-eight pounds, six shillings, and eight pence.

Before the end of the same month of August further trouble with another band of Indians called for aid from Windsor. This time it was reported that the Pequots who had been taken captives in the war of 1637, had a crop of corn growing on land which they had been forbidden to cultivate, and forty men were instructed to take possession of the corn and harvest it. Windsor's quota for this enterprise was seventeen men. Captain John Mason was one of the men appointed and doubtless served as the leader of the expedition against the offenders whom he had captured two years before.

In October, 1639, the General Court conferred upon each town the privilege of local self government. Each town was given authority to sell or otherwise dispose of the land which had been purchased and owned by the community as a whole. This applied to most of the land in the town of Windsor as the title to very little had been acquired by individuals. Each town was also given full authority to choose its own officers and to pass ordinances for the management of town affairs subject to the provision that such ordinances should be in harmony with the constitution and the supreme laws of the colony. The town was to select three, five, or seven of its leading citizens, one of whom should serve as moderator, to hold a meeting every two months in order to settle all controversies over debts and damages where not more than forty shillings were involved, to administer justice, and to execute



the town ordinances. Here was the beginning of our system of electing selectmen.

The town was also required to provide a "Ledger Book with an Index or Alphabet unto the same," in which to record the location, extent, and boundaries of every man's property, and "all bargaines or mortgages of land whatsoever" were to "be accounted of noe value untill they be recorded." A "Towne Clerke or Register" should be chosen yearly whose duty it was to keep these records and to make a copy every six months of all "graunts, bargaines or ingagements recorded by him in the Towne Booke" during the preceding half year and deliver this copy to the secretary of the General Court. Bray Rossiter was chosen as Windsor's first town clerk and held the office until 1651 when he removed to Guilford and was succeeded by Matthew Grant, who, until that time had been the principal land surveyor for Windsor. The selectmen were farther authorized and instructed to serve as a court of probate and be responsible for the proper registration of all wills and the settlement of all estates.

Tho the settlers had little serious trouble with the River Indians, who had welcomed their coming, they still lived in constant fear of attack from the less friendly natives living in the distant sections of the colony and in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. On this account a movement was set on foot during the summer of 1640 to bring about a union or confederation of all the settlements in Connecticut and Massachusetts according to the plan mentioned months before by Roger Ludlow in his letter to Governor Winthrop. While its main purpose was protection from the Indians there were other important considerations that led to the formation of this New England Confederacy which was actually organized in 1643 and continued to have a share in the government until it was dissolved in 1684.

Besides the dangers from the Indians there was fear of trouble from the Dutch at Manhattan and on the Hudson, who still showed hostility to the plans of the English for further settlements and expansion and also sold firearms to the Indians.

On the north, moreover, the French were regarded with suspicion for they were jealous of the growing power of the English and they, too, sold firearms to the Indians. Then there were many interests that all the colonists shared in common and it was thought that a body of commissioners representing all the colonies could devise plans and make recommendations for the good of all, and these recommendations could be made into laws by the General Courts, if they approved. This New England Confederacy included the four colonies of Connecticut, New Haven, Massachusetts Bay, and Plymouth. The settlements in Maine were excluded because their leaders were not on good terms with the leaders of Massachusetts Bay, and Rhode Island was not invited because Roger Williams and his followers were regarded as heretics who would contaminate their Massachusetts and Connecticut neighbors.

This confederacy rendered many important services in the way of maintaining peace between the settlers and the enemies they feared. It also made many recommendations that became laws and directly concerned the people of Windsor along with the people of many other towns.

One of the earliest of these laws that was passed upon the recommendation of the New England commissioners, prescribed the method for collecting money to pay the ministers' salaries. It prescribed that all the members of the parish should be called together and each one asked to state how much he was willing to contribute for the support of the church and if he refused to contribute what the town officials thought was his fair proportion of the necessary expense, then the officials should determine what he ought to pay and compel him to pay it the same as any other legal debt.

Another law that originated in the same way shows us how Windsor contributed to the support of Harvard College in 1644 and for many years after that date. Every family that was able to do so was requested but not compelled to give each year a peck of corn or its equivalent in value for the support of worthy and needy students at the college. In 1644 William Gaylard and Henry Clarke were appointed collectors to receive the corn for the college.

At the end of the first year under the new constitution Roger Ludlow, who had served the colony as deputy governor, was called upon to prepare some new laws that should prescribe the action to be taken in cases of sudden deaths that happen either by accident or by violence and in cases of persons who die without having made a will to dispose of their estates. He was also asked to draw up a special act prescribing the authority of the magistrates to inflict corporal punishment and another act regulating the sale and ownership of land.

In April, 1646, the General Court assigned to Roger Ludlow a still more extensive and important undertaking, nothing less than the drafting of a complete body of statutes for Connecticut. The record reads: "Mr. Ludlowe is desired to take some paynes in drawing forth a body of Lawes for the government of this Commonwelth, & present them to the next Generall Court." This Herculean task could not be performed even by a man of Roger Ludlow's ability in a single year and it was not until May, 1650, that this famous code of laws was "concluded and established."

This body of laws known to history by the familiar designations, "Ludlow's Code" and the "Code of 1650," was probably the most complete and exhaustive body of statutes that had then been created in America. It was intended to provide for every need and situation that was of vital concern to the growing colony. A few selections from the vast number of legal provisions will indicate something of the character and temper of the times.

1. No person was to be arrested or imprisoned for debt so long as he had property that could be used to satisfy the just claims made against him. But if a debtor had property which he withheld from the officers of the law and thus prevented the settlement of his debt, then he could be arrested and imprisoned and kept in prison at his own expense until he made a just and satisfactory settlement of the claims against him.

2. If any man was found to have developed the habit of "vexing others with unjust, frequent, and needless suits, it shall bee in the power of the Courtes both to reject his cause, and to punish him for his Barratry" (unjust use of the courts).

3. Burglars were to be branded on the forehead with the letter B. Murderers, witches, blasphemers, kidnapers, and ten other classes of criminals were to be put to death.

4. The selectmen should "have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbors" to make sure that they taught their children or employed others to teach them "so much learning as may inable them perfectly to read the English tounge, and knowledge of the capitall Lawes." The penalty for a parent who failed to provide this education for his child was twenty shillings. Every head of a family must once each week catechise his children and servants in the "grounds and principles of religion" so that they may be able to answer questions "that shall bee propounded to them out of such Catechismes by their parents or masters or any of the selectmen." All parents and masters must bring up their children and apprentices to perform some honest and lawful labor or trade profitable to themselves and the commonwealth, if they will not or can not "traîne them up in Learning to fitt them for higher employments."

If the selectmen should find any head of a family who failed to give his children the education required, then in cooperation with two magistrates of the town they were authorized to take the children and bind them out with some master or masters until the boys were twenty-one years of age and the girls eighteen, and these masters should be responsible for seeing that they received the education required by law.

The number of Windsor children who were bound to masters under this law was quite large. The following indenture illustrates a typical case near the close of the eighteenth century.

#### A Typical Indenture

This Indenture made & Executed this 20th Day of November A D 1791, Between Jcsiah Allyn Oliver Mather Abiel Griswold and Solomon Griswold Select-Men & Overseers of ye poor in the Town of Windsor in ye County of Hartford and State of Connec<sup>t</sup> on ye one part And Amos Lawrence of Hartford on ye other part Witnesseth That ye Sd Select-Men &

Overseers of ye poor as above, Do by these Presents Put & Bind to ye Sd Amos Lawrance One Aurelia Drake a Miner & One of the Poor of Sd Town of Windsor about Six years of Age as a Servant untill she shall arive at the age of Eighteen years & no longer

During all which Term of Time she ye sd Aurelia hir Sd Master shall faithfully Serve, his Secrets keep, his Lawful Commands Gladly obey she shall not waste hir Sd Masters Goods not lend them Unlawfully nor Suffer others to do the Same without Giving hir Sd Master Notice thereof, she shall not absent herself from hir Sd Masters Service by Night or Day without leave, But in all things behave as a good & faithful Servant During Sd Term And ye Sd Amos Lawrance Doth on his part Covenant to Provide for ye Sd Aurelia Suitable Cloathing, Meat, Drink & Lodging in Sickness & Health During Sd Term And learn hir to read & write well if she be capable thereof And at the End of Sd Term to Dismiss Sd Servant with Two good suits of Cloathing one fit for Holidays and the other for Common Times Likewise a good English Bible In witness whereof we have hereunto Set our hands & seal this 20th day of November A D 1791

Presents off  
John Caldwell  
&  
Bar. Deane

Josiah Allyn  
Solomon Griswold  
Abiel Griswold  
Oliver Mather  
Amos Lawrance

5. "No man shall exercise any tyranny or cruelty towards any brute creatures which are usually kept for the use of man."

6. Every member of a church congregation who manifested disrespect and contempt for the preaching and teaching of his pastor should be publicly reprimanded for the first offence and for the second offence he should either pay a fine of five pounds or stand for two hours on a Lecture Day upon a block four feet high and wear upon his breast a placard on which was written in capital letters, "AN OPEN AND OBSTINATE CONTEMNER OF GOD'S HOLY ORDINANCES."

7. Every citizen was required to attend religious services on the Sabbath and on every public fast day or

day of thanksgiving. For every absence without a "just and necessary cause" the penalty was a fine of five shillings.

8. In Windsor and in each of the other river towns a guard of twenty men fully armed should be on duty every Sabbath and lecture day.

9. The constable was required to report idlers, fowlers (hunters), and tobacco takers to the magistrates for punishment.

10. If an Indian meddled with a white man's gun and anyone was injured as a result either intentionally or accidentally, the Indian should pay "life for life, limb for limb, wound for wound."

11. Profane swearing was punishable by a fine of ten shillings.

12. "It being one chiefe project of that old deluder Sathan, to keepe men from the knowledge of the Scriptures . . . and that Learning may not bee buried in the graves of our forefathers . . . it is therefore ordered . . . that every Townshipp within this Jurissdiction, after the Lord hath increased them to the number of fifty householders, shall then forthwith appoint one within their Towne to teach all such children as shall resorte to him, to write and read, whose wages shall bee paid either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the Inhabitants in generall . . . and it is farther ordered that where any Towne shall increase to the number of one hundred families or householders, they shall sett up a Grammer Schoole, the master thereof being able to instruct youths so farr as they may bee fitted for the University. And if any Towne neglect the performance hereof above one yeare, then every such Towne shall pay five pounds pr Annum to the next such Schoole, till they shall perform this order."

13. "No person under the age of twenty years, nor any other that hath not allready accustomed himselfe to the use thereof, shall take any Tobacco, until hee hath brought a certificate under the hands of some who are approved for knowledge and skill in physick, that it is useful for him and allso that hee hath received a lycense from the Court for the same. And . . . it is ordered, that no man within this Colonye, after the publication hereof, shall take any Tobacco publicuely in the street, high wayes, or any barne yards, or upon training dayes

in any open places, under the penalty of six pence for each offence against this order."

14. If any person had been fined or whipped for any scandalous offence he should not be permitted to vote or to serve on a jury until the court should give permission.

15. Whereas wolves were destroying large numbers of cattle, any person who killed a wolf within ten miles of any plantation should receive a bounty of ten shillings.

16. No vessel of any description should leave its home port unless the master thereof had first given to the Town Clerk a certificate stating what quantity of powder and shot he had on board, and on his return from any voyage he must file with the Town Clerk an account showing what use or disposition he had made of the powder reported in his certificate. In case he failed to certify the full amount taken on board, or to report how he disposed of it, he was liable to a fine equal to the value of the powder and shot he had concealed. This order was of particular interest to the shippers of Windsor, who, in the early days carried on a flourishing trade on the river and at sea.

17. All houses must be "upheld, repaired, and maintained sufficiently in a comely way" and any one who purchased a house lot must within one year build a house upon it "fitt for an inhabitant to dwell in," unless the court found reason to grant him a longer time.

18. Grain was to be received for the payment of taxes and the prices were fixed by law for a period of one year. By the code of 1650 the price of wheat for the first year was to be four shillings and six pence per bushel; of peas, three shillings and six pence; of rye, three shillings and six pence; of Indian corn, three shillings. One third of the amount of any tax bill might be paid in good wampum.

In January, 1642, (new style), the Rev. Ephraim Huit was granted the island in the Connecticut river near the Enfield falls, which was later known as King's Island. What service Mr. Huit had rendered to entitle him to this land is unknown and it may be that the grant from the General Court was a confirmation of or an addition to rights that he had already acquired from the Indians.

At the same January session of the court Captain John Mason, who had led the colonial forces in their attack on the

Pequots in 1637, was granted a tract of five hundred acres of land in the Pequot country for his own use and five hundred acres more which was to be for the use of the soldiers who had served with him in the Indian war.

Another important item of business was transacted at the January Court of 1642. It was voted that if Windsor would provide a ferry boat to take passengers across the Connecticut River the town should be allowed to charge three pence for transporting a single passenger, two pence for each passenger when two or more were taken across the river at the same time and twelve pence for transporting a horse. Apparently no one in Windsor was ready to undertake the enterprise of managing the ferry for we hear no more about it until seven years later, when John Bissell agreed to provide a boat and conduct the ferry for a term of seven years. This was the beginning of the famous Bissell's Ferry in 1649.

In September, 1642, the danger from Indians caused considerable anxiety and the General Court passed an order for the protection of the river towns. Two wardens were charged with the duty of notifying the people of Windsor in case of any danger and the town was to keep thirty men always prepared to rush to the defense of any one who might need protection. A month later it was ordered that these thirty men should be provided with coats "basted with cotten wooll and made defensive against Indean arrowes."

In the administration of justice the whipping post played a frequent and important part. Tradition says that the first post stood near the meeting house on Palisado Green. In 1643 we find the record of a man sentenced to be whipped for some offence and then turned over to Captain John Mason, whom he was ordered to serve during the pleasure of the General Court. This was apparently an unusually severe punishment, but this man had been whipped before and had not amended his ways. In cases where it was desired to make the punishment particularly severe, Windsor offenders were whipped in Hartford at a cart's tail by order of the General Court and then sent back home to be whipped again at the whipping post.



The problem of keeping the Indians in subjection continued to cause much anxiety to all the river settlements. In 1643 Captain John Mason was again called upon with others to arrange for an expedition of eight men to go to Mohegan to defend Uncas, who had been the friend and ally of the English during their war with the Pequots. Armed men were ordered to be in attendance at religious services on every Sabbath or lecture day and a tax of forty pounds was levied on the colony to defray the expense of repairing the fort at Saybrook, which was looked upon as the main defense against hostilities from enemies coming up the river.

### King Philip's War

King Philip's War sent a thrill of horror thruout New England. Windsor and her neighbors were especially exposed to danger and constantly on the lookout for attacks. The main highway between Hartford and Springfield passed thru Windsor and this was alive with hurrying troops and transports of munitions and supplies. Captain John Bissell, John Bissell, Jr., Nathaniel Bissell, Captain Daniel Clark, Edward Chapman, Thomas Strong, John Hosford, Anthony Hoskins, Daniel Hayden, Joseph Loomis, Nathaniel Loomis, John Terry, Captain Samuel Marshall, John Moses, Thomas Moore, John Porter, Henry Sanders, and Henry Wolcott were enlisted for the service and each received six shillings and eight pence "on war account."

Fortunately Windsor escaped the concerted attacks that devastated some of her neighbors. Simsbury was burned after her settlers had sought refuge in Windsor. Twenty Windsor soldiers went to the defense of New London, fourteen were sent to the relief of Springfield, and twenty-five were sent to New Haven and Fairfield counties under the command of Captain Benjamin Newberry. John Colt of Windsor was shot by an Indian and three detachments of troops were immediately sent out to scour the country on both sides of the Connecticut River from Hartford north to Windsor and East Windsor and south on the west side of the river to Wethersfield. It was ordered that one fourth of all the soldiers from sixteen to seventy years

of age should be on guard every day "by turns" and that all who worked in the fields should work in companies of six with their arms and ammunition always at hand. Mounted men daily patrolled the roads from Windsor to Hartford and Simsbury. John Grant was sent to Westfield with twenty men to repel a threatened attack. The Windsor people learned of an anticipated attack on Springfield. The information was given to the white people by Toto, a friendly Indian. With others Toto was commissioned to warn the inhabitants of Springfield of their danger. On foot and alone according to tradition he made the journey to Springfield and back during the night preceding the attack, and due to his warning and to help from the Connecticut troops, who rushed to their assistance from Westfield, the citizens of Springfield were saved from complete destruction.

Fearful for the destruction of their crops, which were now almost ready for the harvest, the authorities ordered that all the Indian corn should be gathered immediately and transferred to "places of best security." "All persons were ordered to lend every assistance in their power, and the magistrates were authorized to impress men and teams, this being a time for all private interests to be laid aside to preserve the public good."

A large force of Connecticut men was now sent to cooperate with an army from Massachusetts in an attack upon King Philip's stronghold in the Narragansett country in Rhode Island. Samuel Marshall of Windsor commanded one company. At the Great Swamp fight King Philip's fort was burned and his warriors destroyed. In this battle five Windsor men are known to have lost their lives. These men were Captain Samuel Marshall, Ebenezer Dibble, Nathaniel Pond, Richard Saxton, and Edward Chapman. John Fitch was wounded and died after returning to Windsor. (See sketch of his life under Persons of Note.)

### Queen Anne's War

The beginning of the following century found the loyal citizens of Windsor disturbed by the prospects of another war. This time it was a European war known on this side of the

ocean as Queen Anne's War, in which nobody in America had any personal interest, but, since England and her allies had gone to war against France and Spain over the question, Who shall occupy the Spanish throne? their loyal subjects in America were expected to aid and support the mother countries. Hence New England especially was immediately exposed to all the horrors of a war with the French in Canada and their Indian allies.

Deerfield, Massachusetts, was burned and the surviving inhabitants carried off to Canada as prisoners. Everywhere there was distress, everywhere terror. Connecticut rushed to the assistance of her neighbors nearer the Canadian border. Captain Matthew Allyn led a company from Windsor to Wood Creek, near Albany. From the town records we learn that Benjamin Newberry, Jr., died at the camp near Wood Creek; Hezekiah Bissell died near Albany; Sergeant Isaac Pinney, William Stratton, Stephen Taylor, and Samuel Thrall died aboard a vessel coming from Albany.

In 1710 Port Royal in Acadia was taken by a little army, which included three hundred men from Connecticut. The following year a new campaign was undertaken against Canada. In this campaign Colonel Matthew Allyn's company included Joseph Holcomb, Thomas Gillet, Benjamin Howard, Benjamin Barber, Benedict Alvord, Ebenezer Cook, and Nathan Griswold. They left home July 10, 1711, and returned to Windsor on October 12 of the same year.

In another company Lieutenant Samuel Bancroft, Joseph Griswold, Sergeant Nathaniel Pinney, and Isaac Pinney took part in the expedition to Canada and Roger Wolcott served as commissary for all the troops from Connecticut.

By the treaty of Utrecht, signed in 1713, peace was made and England secured control of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the Hudson Bay region. The Indians, however, kept the colonists in a state of anxiety and fear as late as 1724, when Azariah Pinney, Shubald Griswold, and Nathan Watson were stationed on guard at Litchfield and nine Windsor men did guard duty for several weeks at Turkey Hills (the western part of East Granby).

### The War of Jenkins' Ear

Fifteen years of peace followed. Then the mother country sounded the call for another war—the war of Jenkins' Ear. According to the story a Captain Jenkins and his ship had been seized near the coast of Florida by the Spaniards, who accused him of smuggling English goods into the Spanish colonies. The Spaniards failed to find the necessary evidence to convict him as a smuggler but in their anger they tortured him and pulled off one of his ears with the remark, "Take it to your king." When Jenkins appeared before the British parliament and was asked how he felt about his mistreatment, he replied, "I recommend my soul to God and my cause to my country." With hostile feeling already at high tension between the two countries England was ready to declare war on Spain, which she did on October 19, 1739.

Connecticut was called upon to send troops to the West Indies to cooperate with an English fleet in attacks on the Spanish settlements. Windsor and Wintonbury companies were in the First Regiment of Hartford County. An unsuccessful attack on Carthagera was followed by an outbreak of yellow fever more deadly than Spanish bullets. Few of those who went to this war ever returned. We know but little of their record. In Captain Henry Allyn's company we know that Thomas Elgar, Alexander Alvord, Cyrus Jackson, Asahel Spencer, and Aaron Cook went as volunteers. Return Strong, Nathaniel Hayden, and Roger Newberry were also members of the expedition. Roger Newberry died on board his transport, which was returning from Carthagera to Jamaica.

### King George's War

The war dragged on and in 1744 France was involved. Another throne—the throne of Austria—had become vacant and England and France became enemies. In England the contest that followed was known as the War of the Austrian Succession. In America it was known as King George's War.

New England troops were now called upon to go against Canada. Five hundred men from Connecticut under the command of Lieutenant Governor Roger Wolcott of Windsor

joined with other New England troops and a British fleet in an attack on Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, then considered the Gibraltar of North America. After a siege of nearly seven weeks the fortress surrendered. It was a proud day when Windsor welcomed home her distinguished hero, Roger Wolcott. He records in his journal that an escort of "gentlemen from Hartford and Wethersfield" accompanied him to his home in Windsor. There they had a good dinner and "after the Discharge of the Great Artillery and small arms Gave three Huzzas and parted Good friends."

From Windsor, East Windsor, and Wintonbury we have the following names of men who served in the various campaigns of this war. Captain Ebenezer Grant, Lieutenant Thomas Grant, Ensign Gideon Wolcott, Sergeant Thomas Drake<sup>d</sup>, Sergeant Thomas Skinner, Sergeant Joseph Deggons, Clerk Joseph Wolcott, Ammi Trumble, Jr., Samuel Watson, Nathaniel Stoughton, James Harper, Gershom Bartlett<sup>d</sup>, Jacob Elmor, William Bissell, John Gaylord, Ebenezer Bliss, Noah Bissell, Moses Bissell, John Kellogg, Caleb Booth, Jr., Elisha Munsil, Joseph Egelstone, Benjamin Bancroft, Joseph Bartlett, John Osband, John Prior, John Grant, John Grant, Jr., John Sikes, Samuel Smith, Jerijah Bissell, Ezra Elgor<sup>d</sup>, Ebenezer Moor<sup>d</sup>, Samuel Bartlett, Benjamin Cook, Azariah Grant, Timothy Strong, James Rockwell, Job Rockwell, John Stoughton, Ephraim Wolcott, Benjamin Phelps, Joseph Nuberry, Zebulon King, Abijah Skinner, Nathaniel Porter, Jr., Joseph Elmor, Jr., Robert Wood, John Anderson, Jr., Matthew Grant, Benoni Olcott, Alexander Wolcott, Israel Stoughton, Captain David Ellsworth, Lieutenant John Warham Strong, James Eggleston, Jr., Ezra Loomis<sup>d</sup>, Caleb Case<sup>d</sup>, James Barnett<sup>d</sup>, Jeremy Alford<sup>d</sup>, Thomas Barber<sup>d</sup>, Stephen Gillet<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>d</sup> Died in service.

### French and Indian War

A lull in hostilities lasted ten years. Then the warfare took another name. This time it was the French and Indian War and now the bone of contention was not in Europe but in America. France and England fought over boundary lines and the extention of their territory in the New World.

In 1755 five thousand men were sent against Crown Point but soon returned to their homes with little accomplished.

The following is the muster roll of those whom Captain Benjamin Allyn of Windsor led on this expedition:

Isaac Tucker, Reuben Crow,\* Zaccheus Crow, Lieutenant Levi Chapin, Noah Hunt, Elijah Barrett, John Hosmer, Patt O'Conele, Charles Burnham, John Abbot, Hezekiah Welles, Elijah Evings, George Colton, Daniel Eaton, Jacob Osborn, Gideon Loomis, Giles Wolcott, Joel Soper, John Eggleston, Jr., Abner Prior, Ozias Grant, David Bissell, Jonathan Gillett, Joseph Moore, Joseph Moore, Jr., Gideon Prior, Silas Wells, John McMunnen, William Thomson, Eben Belknap, Asher Isham, Nathaniel Gaylor, John Japhet, Thomas Hawkins, Reuben Cook, Zebalon Winchell, Robert Westland, Benjamin Baker, Andrew Shilling, Jonathan Pinney, Jr., Daniel Filley,\* Elijah Densiow, Elisha Williams, Sergeant Jonathan Buckland, Ephraim Parker, Joseph Winchell,\* Ebenezer Loomis, Zephaniah Snow, Asa Pinney, Ely Parker, Appleton Hollister, 2nd Lieutenant Orvis, John Strong, Corporal Jonathan Pinney, Corporal Benjamin Kinney, Eliphalet Loomis, Sergeant Drake, Zebulon Winslow, Josiah Standliff, Thomas Jarwell, Keup Perrigue (Indian). Isaac Drake died at Lake George.

\* Remained at Fort Edward to do garrison duty from November, 1755 to March, 1756.

This year (1755) witnessed the expulsion of the French Canadians from Nova Scotia by the English and colonial troops. To prevent them from joining and assisting their fellow countrymen they were scattered along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida and some of them were carried as far as Louisiana. About four hundred of these unfortunate people were brought to Connecticut and on January 21, 1756, the legislature ordered them to be distributed among the towns of the state. Windsor's quota was thirteen. Their later history is largely lost. According to tradition three of them lived for a time on Hinsdale Hill where the Hayden Station school now stands.

In 1756 and 1757 we find the names of Captain Benjamin Allyn, Medina Fitch, Moses Griswold, Daniel Brown, Samuel

Blecher, Ithamar Bingham, David Phelps, Samuel Stoughton, and Ammi Trumble among those who served in the campaigns near Crown Point and Fort William Henry. In 1758 Elihu Tudor and Mark Filley were among those who assisted in the recapture of Louisburg, which had been returned to the French at the close of King George's War.

Between 1759 and 1762 the number of men sent from Connecticut to the campaigns in eastern New York and at Montreal and Quebec was greatly increased and Windsor sent her full quota, but the muster rolls do not indicate residence with sufficient clearness to give the exact number from any town. We can, however, say with assurance that almost every Windsor family had sent a son into some of the struggles of this long war.

Many a descendant of the early Windsor families will doubtless be able to find the name of an ancestor in the following list, but no contemporary record has been found that tells how many of them enlisted from the town of Windsor.

"A muster roll of Gen<sup>l</sup> Lyman's Company" in "Camp at Montreal, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1760."

(Phineas Lyman was from Suffield, Connecticut)

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gen. Phineas Lyman        | Dr. How                  |
| Capt. Giles Wolcott       | Dr. Andrus               |
| Lieut. Roger Enos         | Chap. Beckwith           |
| Lieut. Silas Holcomb      | Corp. Abiether Evans     |
| Ens. John Strong          | Corp. Dan King           |
| Ens. Elihu Humphrey       | Corp. Ebenezer Phelps    |
| Sgt. Major Samuel Granger | Corp. Elisha Spencer     |
| Qr. Sgt. James Harman     | Corp. Stephen Holcomb    |
| Sgt. Joel Addams          | Drummer Ephraim Goodrich |
| Sgt. Joseph Marvin        | Drummer Elijah Reed      |
| Sgt. Oliver Hanchet       | Drummer Samuel Marvin    |
| Sgt. Ephraim Addams       | Daniel Enos              |
| Sgt. Shadrack Phelps      | Nathaniel Griswold       |
| Sgt. John Slaid           | Francis Griswold         |
| Sgt. Phineas Southwell    | John Lewis               |
| Sgt. Eleazer Smith        | Timothy Soper            |
| Sgt. Reuben Denslow       | Abiether Jones           |
| Sgt. William Ross         | David Jones              |
| Sgt. Jonathan Allyn       | Epraphras Wolcott        |
| Sgt. Philander Pinney     | Moses Fargo              |
| Sgt. Thomas Jerrit        | Jonathan Bewell          |
| Sgt. Zephany Snow         | Samuel Blackmore         |
| Sgt. Jonathan Beaman      | Berijah Brunson          |
| Clerk Joab Griswold       | Elisha Pendall           |
| Clerk Nathaniel Humphrey  | Roswell Davis            |

Jonathan Brown  
 Richard Fitch  
 Simeon Allin  
 Austin Phelps  
 Benajah Webster  
 Isaac Crowfoot  
 Phinehas Huxley  
 Joshua Preston  
 Ebenezer Burbank  
 Joseph Towner  
 Stephen Buckley  
 Joseph Stoughton  
 David Allyn  
 Silas Simans  
 Thomas Newberry  
 Jonathan Gillet  
 Joseph Easton  
 Thomas Austin  
 David Allyn, Jr.  
 Moses Warner  
 Reuben Phelps  
 John Rimington  
 William Middleton  
 Marshall Stanly  
 Elias Austin  
 Hosea Brunson  
 John Alford  
 David Spencer  
 Ebenezer Halladay  
 Thaddeus Lyman

Brown Beckwith  
 Enoch Granger  
 Thomas Williams, Jr.  
 Dudley Hayse  
 Jesse Goddard  
 Jehiel Messenger  
 Richard Andors  
 Isaac Goff  
 Aaron Noble  
 Moses Holcomb  
 Shadrack Phelps, Jr.  
 Primus Hills  
 Isaac Fosbery  
 John Williams  
 John Forward  
 Joseph Hinksman  
 Thomas Davis  
 Abel Norton  
 Dan Pomeroy  
 John Thomas  
 Joel Peck  
 Timothy Wills  
 William Cammel  
 John Dewey  
 Benjamin Thrall  
 Elijah Brunson  
 William Harrington  
 Thomas Parsons  
 Giles Gibbs

### The Problems of Peace

Tho Windsor's history thus far has been saddened by many wars, we must not forget that other things worthy of record were happening.

There were many other pressing problems calling for solution by the young and growing community. In April, 1652, the townsmen voted that "Gorg Phelps and Gorg Pheleps are appoynted to vew the comon fences one this sid the river. Also John Porter and Benidict Alvarit (Alford) one the other side who after publick warning given they are to goe forth within on sevensnight and those whose fences they shall find insufficient against cattel they shall returne thare names into ye Townes men who shall have power to laye such damages as shall after be dun by meanes of those insufficient fences."

Under date of Aug. 20, 1652, is the following typical record of a town meeting of the period.



“Thear ware debities chossen for ye Ginrall court to be holden on ye 9 day of September following

Mr (William) Phelpes  
Dekn Gayler (Willaim Gaylord)  
John Bissell  
David Wilton

Also Mathew Grant was chosen to be Towne Clerke.

And for Townes men for ye yeare insewing or till others be chossen ware Dekn Gayler moderator, Daniel Wilton, John More, John Bissell, Thomas Ford, John Strong, Mathew Grant.”

The number of townsmen or selectmen was seven until the year 1657. For the next 112 years the number was usually five tho at least twice the number went back to seven and later went down to three, which number appears as late as 1768. Then four were elected annually from 1769 to 1830. In 1831 the number was reduced to three and has remained unchanged since that date. In 1697 they were called Selectmen on the town records and the name “Townsmen” later disappeared.

By 1640 the plantation, as the settlement was then called, had begun the distribution of land, which at the very first was held in common. Now and in the years following it was divided up and assigned to the original settlers. Each settler received a “Home Lot” and usually other tracts, which would give him land for cultivation, meadow land, and wood land. Naturally the home lots were grouped thus providing everyone with neighbors for protection and social cooperation.

On October 10, 1640, John Warham, the pastor of the Windsor church, was granted seven separate lots: a home lot containing sixteen acres; twenty-four acres in the Great Meadow; three acres “over the Great River;” a tract twenty rods wide and three miles long east of the Great River; a tract forty rods wide and three miles long over the Great River; two acres of land with a mill on it; a wood lot west of the mill. This mill tho changed and remodeled still stands on Poquonock Avenue.

February 6, 1640, Walter Fyler was granted six separate tracts of land, one of them being described as “in the Palazado one parcell of land with his Dwelling House.” This house en-

larged and changed is today the home of the Windsor Historical Society.

Large tracts of land were still held in common and used for the benefit of all. As late as 1758 a town meeting voted that we "doe order yt all the common fields, both on this side and the other side the Great River be freed of corne" in order that cattle may be pastured upon them.

Gradually the simple government of the early days became more varied and a larger list of officers with special duties had to be chosen. In 1662 the state had received a charter from the king and it now seemed fitting that the towns should receive charters or patents from the state. Accordingly Windsor received the following in 1685:

### **The Patent of the Town of Windsor**

Whereas the General Court of Conn. have formerly granted the proprieties of ye towne of Windsor all thefe lands both upland and meadow, within thofe abutments upon Hartford bounds by ye great river where ye fence of there meadow stood and to run as ye said fence runs till it meets with a red oak tree marked for ye bounds standing within ye neck of fence in Thos. Butler's land and from ye tree it runs a wefterly line till it meets with brick hill swamp and then runs due north half a mile till it comes neere to ye head of ye brick hill swamp and from thence wefterly till it meets with Farmington bounds and abutts west on Farmington and Symsbury bounds and north in ye commons and it extendeth from Hartford bounds on ye South, North to a tree marked neere ye great river two miles above a brooke known by ye name of Kettle brooke. On ye eaft side of Conn. river it abutts on a great elm on ye south side of Podunk River and runs Eafterly three miles and then south half a mile and from ye half miles end it runs Eaft five miles and Abutts on ye Commons on ye eaft from sayd Hartford bounds, ye whole breadth till it extendeth two mile above ye forenamed Kettle brooke both on ye Eaft and Weft side of Conn. river ye said lands having been by purchafe or otherwise lawfully obtained by ye Indian native proprietors. And whereas the proprietors the fore said Inhabitants of Windsor, in the

Colony of Conn. have made application to ye Govenor and company of ye sayd Colony of Conn. afsembled in Court May 25 1685 that they may have a pattent for ye confirmation of ye afore said land soe purchased and granted to them as afore-said and which they have stood siezed and quietly pofsefsed of for many years late past without interruptaion. now for a more full confirmation of ye aforefaid tract of land as it is butted and bounded aforesaid unto ye present proprietors of ye side townshp of Windsor, in their pofsefsion and enjoyment of ye premises Know ye yet ye Govenor and Company afsembled in General Court according unto ye Commifision granted to them by his Majaftie in this charter have given granted and by these presents do give grant ratifie and confirm unto Capt. Benj. Newberry, Capt. Daniel Clarke, Lut. Thomas Allyn, Henry Wolcot, Mr. Thomas Bissell, Sr. Mr. George Griswold and Mr. John Moore and ye rest of ye present proprietors of ye townshp of Windsor their heirs, succesors and afsigns for ever ye fore side parcell of land as it is butted and bounded together with all ye woods, meadows, pastures, ponds, waters, riverets, lands, fishing, huntings, fowlings, mines, mineralls, quarries and pretoise stone uppon or within ye tract of Land and all other proffits and commodites thereon belonging, or in anywise appertayning and doe alsoe grant unto ye aforefaid and ye rest of ye proprietors inhabitants of Windsor their heirs succesors and afsigns forever y aforefaid tract of land shall be for ever hereafter deemed, reputed and be an intire township of itself. To have and to hold ye tract of land and premises with all singular their appurtenances, together with ye privilege and immunities and franchife herein given and granted into ye and others ye present proprietors, Inhabitants of Windsor, their heirs succesors and afsigns forever and to ye only proper use and behoofe of ye and other proprietors, Inhabitants of Windfor, their heirs succesors and afsigns according to ye tenor of East Greenwich in Kent in free and common soccage and not in capitte nor by Knights service they to make improvements of ye same as they are capeable according to ye custome of ye country, yielding rendering and paying therefore to our Sovereign Lord ye King his heirs succesors and afsigns his dues according to Charter.

In witness whereof we have caused ye seal of ye Colony to be hereunto affixed this 28 day of Sovereign Lord James Ye Second of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King defender of the faith.

Robert Treat Governor

John Allyn Secretary

In addition to the townsmen, the town clerk, and the constables, we find in 1687 that the town meeting chose waywardens, whose duty it was to keep the highways in repair; perambulators, who examined the boundary marks between Windsor and the adjoining towns to see that no one disturbed them; fence viewers, who required every property owner to see that his cattle were kept where they belonged by means of proper fences; hawards or howards, who took charge of stray cattle, pigs, sheep, and geese, and cared for them in one of the town pounds until their owners appeared and paid for the damage and expense they had caused; listers, who assessed the taxes and made the rate bills; and collectors, who collected the taxes and placed the money in the custody of the treasurer.

By 1768 the list of town officers had grown still more. In that year we find three selectmen, a town clerk, a town treasurer, five constables, four grand jurors, four tythingmen, five listers, five collectors, ten surveyors of highways, five branders of horses, three sealers of leather, five packers of tobacco, one sealer of weights, two sealers of measures, three fence viewers, and one howard. The duties of these officers corresponded to the duties of similar officers today with the exception of the tythingman, who has no real counterpart in modern times. During the church services he had the care of the children, who were separated from their parents and seated together in the gallery of the meeting house. He also had to bear the responsibility of seeing that the older folks kept awake during the long sermons, and for this purpose it was his privilege to carry a long wand or pole on the end of which was a fox's tail. Whether or not this privilege was actually exercised in the Windsor church we do not know. We simply know that it was a custom in the Congregational churches of the time and the Windsor church has left no record that the duties of its tythingman were unlike the duties of tythingmen generally. He

was in effect a Sunday constable to uphold the dignity of the church service and the observance of all laws and ordinances pertaining to the Sabbath.

How the town handled cases of undesirable "transients" is well illustrated by the following warning issued by the selectmen in 1769:

### A Warning to Transients

We the Subscribers Hereunto Select Men for the Town of Windsor Aforesaid for the Currant Year Do Hereby warn and Order you fourthwith to Depart Out of and Leve the Town of Windsor you Not Being Hear Any Lawfull Inhabitant and upon your Nglect or Refusal to Comply Here with you May depend upon the Execution of the Law of this Colony Entitled an Act for the Admission of Inhabitants into Town &c as in Colony Law Book Page 99. & So on May Appear, and Not to Return into Said Town of Windsor Any More to Make it your Place of Abode, Without proper Admittance According to Said Statute Law Dated at Windsor this 30<sup>th</sup> Day of June Anno Dom 1769 . . . . .

To Either of the Constables  
of the Town of Windsor Afores<sup>d</sup>  
to Serve and return to . . . .

Josiah Bissel Esqr Just. Peac  
in & for Hartford County . . . .

per Order of

|                |   |               |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| Josiah Phelps  | } | Select<br>Men |
| William Manley |   |               |
| Henry Allyn    |   |               |

### Calling a Pastor

Church and state were closely tied together until after the Revolutionay War. Hence the calling of a minister rated both as a civil and a religious function, tho each church society was responsible for the selection and support of its leader. Under date of 1775 we find the following letter, which explains how the First Church Society called its minister in that year.

Windsor, October 16th, 1775.

To the first Society in Windsor.

Gent. Your Vote of the Sixth day of Sept. last relative to the Stipulated Sum and other Considerations particularly expressed in said vote, as encouragement for my taking the pastoral care and charge of your Chh. and Society, I have maturely to consider and must think them inadequate for the proposed purpose; But relying upon it that you mean and intend a decent and comfortable support and considering your proposed unanimity, I do hereby accept of your invitation and clofe with your proposal cheerfully taking upon me the pastoral relation of your Chh. and Society, depending upon the power of Divine grace, the aid and assistance of the blessed Spirit of God to enable me faithfully and impartially to discharge the respective duties of a minister of the new Testament To Which office I have solemnly been set apart according to Apostolic Direction, and am yours in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel.

David Rowland.

### Windsor in the Revolution

The outbreak of the Revolutionary War added heavy burdens to the town of Windsor. The following statements and excerpts from the records help to understand how the town met the great crisis.

Before the first gun of the Revolution was fired on Lexington Green, April 19, 1775, Windsor was already actively and effectively engaged in giving material support to the Massachusetts patriots in their resistance to British oppression. When the British government attempted to starve the people of Boston into submission because of their part in the famous Boston Tea Party, Windsor's attitude was promptly shown by the following communication addressed to Jonathan Mason of Boston.

Windsor, March 20, 1775.

Mr. Jonathan Mason,

Sir: We being appointed by this town to receive donations for the poor of Boston, and as we understand you are one to receive them, have directed Capt. Smith to deliver you what grain

we have collected for that purpose, viz., 391 bushels rye, 89½ bushels corn, and half barrel of pork.

We are your humble servants,

James Hooker.

Oliver Mather.

Two days later a similar communication was sent "To the Overseers of the Poor in Boston" by William Wolcott representing a committee for the daughter town of East Windsor.

When the news of the "Lexington Alarm" reached Windsor it took but a few hours for Capt. Nathaniel Hayden, Jr., to organize an "alarm party" of 24 men and start for the relief of Boston. From East Windsor 4 companies of "alarm men" totaling 148 men were organized for the same purpose under the command of Captains Lemuel Stoughton, leader of the Scantic Train Band, Amasa Loomis, with the South Parish Train Band, Matthew Grant, with the Wapping Train Band, and Charles Ellsworth, with the Ellington Train Band.

It was learned, however, that the situation at Boston was not so critical as to demand the immediate presence of these men and in a few weeks most of them had returned to their homes.

How the expense of this expedition was met is shown by the following records taken from the original documents referring to Captain Hayden's Company. The first document shows how the money was collected from the treasurer of the colony of Connecticut. The second shows how it was paid to the men of Capt. Hayden's Company by the selectmen of Windsor.

Colony of Connecticut to Select men of Windsor for  
Expense of Capt. Nath<sup>l</sup>. Hayden & Company in y<sup>e</sup>  
Late Alarm

Dr.

|            |   |   |         |
|------------|---|---|---------|
| 1775 April | To Wages of Officers & Men Private                      | L | 17"16"4 |
|            | To Billeting Do. 254 Days @ 1-6----                     |   | 19" 1"0 |
|            | To horse hire 1450 miles @ -2 <sup>d</sup> -----        |   | 12" 1"8 |
|            | To forage for Do. 102 Days @ -9 <sup>d</sup> ----       |   | 3"16"6  |
|            | To provision caried & D <sup>d</sup> . To Com-          |   |         |
|            | pany which y <sup>e</sup> Company rce <sup>d</sup> None |   |         |
|            | off -----   |   | 15" 7"6 |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| To transporting y <sup>e</sup> same as the Com-<br>pany rec <sup>d</sup> no Provision----- | 8" 0"0  |
|  | <hr/>   |
|  | 76" 3"0 |
| Deducted for Billeting at Colony Ex-<br>pense 5 men 85 Days—@ 1-6-----                     | 6" 7"6  |
|  | <hr/>   |
|  | 69"15"6 |

June 30<sup>th</sup> 1775 Rec<sup>d</sup>. an Order on the Treasurer for Sixty Nine pounds fifteen Shillings and Sixpence in full of this Acct.

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Cap <sup>t</sup> . per Day | 4-   |
| Lt -----                   | 2-8  |
| Ens <sup>n</sup> . -----   | 2-   |
| Srjt -----                 | 1-7  |
| Corpr <sup>l</sup> . ----- | 1-5½ |
| Privete -----              | 1-4  |

Windsor July 17<sup>th</sup> Day Anno Dom 1775 Then We the Subscribers Did Receive of Henry Allyn Esq. the Sums Annexed to Each of Our Names Being the Sums Allowed to Each of us for Our Service Done in and for Connecticut Colony in the Late Alarm at Boston & c as was Allow<sup>d</sup> by the Committee of the Paytable for Said Colony and Rec<sup>d</sup> by Said Allyn as One of the Select Men of Windsor—

|  | L | s  | d   |
|--|---|----|-----|
| Cap <sup>t</sup> Nath <sup>el</sup> Hayden | 2 | 3  | 0   |
| Nat <sup>l</sup> Hayden Jun <sup>r</sup> . |   |    |     |
| Corp <sup>l</sup> Cornelious Russell       | 1 | 5  | 4 2 |
| David Elsworth                             |   |    |     |
| Ezra Hayden                                | 1 | 4  | 9   |
| Serg <sup>t</sup> Isaac Hayden             |   |    |     |
| Ruben Denslow                              | 1 | 6  | 0   |
| Reuben Denslow                             |   |    |     |
| John Allyn Jun <sup>r</sup> .              | 1 | 4  | 9   |
| John Allyn Jun <sup>r</sup> .              |   |    |     |
| John Allyn                                 | 0 | 19 | 0   |
| John Allyn                                 |   |    |     |
| Elijah Stoughton                           | 2 | 0  | 0   |
| Elijah Stoughton                           |   |    |     |
| Serg <sup>t</sup> Sam <sup>l</sup> . Wing  | 1 | 11 | 0   |
| Sam <sup>l</sup> . Wing                    |   |    |     |
| pr. Nath <sup>l</sup> Hayden Junr.         |   |    |     |
| Sam <sup>l</sup> . Gibbs                   | 2 | 2  | 6   |
| Sam <sup>l</sup> . Gibbs                   |   |    |     |



|                                 |   |    |    |
|---------------------------------|---|----|----|
| William Davies                  | 2 | 13 | 1  |
| William Davis                   |   |    |    |
| Lemuel Welch                    | 2 | 13 | 1  |
| Nath <sup>l</sup> Hayden Junr.  |   |    |    |
| Ebenezer Woolworth              | 2 | 13 | 1  |
| Jabez Haskell                   |   |    |    |
| William Parsons                 | 2 | 13 | 1  |
| Josiah Biffell                  |   |    |    |
| Wm. Thrall Junr.                | 9 | 19 | 0  |
| Wm. Thrall Jr.                  |   |    |    |
| Ge <sup>r</sup> shem Weft       | 1 | 16 | 10 |
| Gershom West                    |   |    |    |
| Oliver Lee                      | 1 | 4  | 9  |
| Josiah Bifsell                  |   |    |    |
| Oliver Hayden                   | 0 | 16 | 0  |
| Oliver Heydon                   |   |    |    |
| John Roberts                    | 2 | 2  | 6  |
| John Roberts                    |   |    |    |
| Eb <sup>zr</sup> . Fitch Biffel | 0 | 19 | 0  |
| Eb. Fitch Biffell               |   |    |    |
| David Thrall                    | 1 | 4  | 9  |
| David Thrall                    |   |    |    |
| Martin Denslow                  | 1 | 4  | 9  |
| Martin Denslow                  |   |    |    |
| Eleazer Gaylord                 | 1 | 4  | 9  |
| Nath Gaylord                    |   |    |    |
| Thomas Hayden                   | 1 | 6  | 9  |
| Thomas Hayden                   |   |    |    |

In December, 1775, Dr. Alexander Wolcott, Capt. James Hooker, Capt. Josiah Phelps, Ensign Jonathan Filley, Jacob Griswold, Josiah Bissell, Roger Newberry, Henry Allen, Esq., and Lieut. Pelatiah Mills were appointed a Vigilance Committee to ascertain whether or not every man in the town was loyal to the patriot cause.

Windsor's men were not found wanting in loyalty, devotion, or sacrifice. At least four hundred forty eight who were natives of or enlisted from the Ancient Town on the West side of the river and five hundred twenty seven from the parishes of East Windsor rendered service on fields of action stretching from Quebec on the North to Yorktown on the South.

July 4, 1776, Hezekiah Hayden, then with the army in New York, wrote to his father and mother in Windsor, "Let us animate and encourage each other, and show to the whole world that a freeman contending for liberty on his own ground, is superior to any slavish mercenary on earth."

By the time this letter was written most of the able bodied men were in the army. Out of nine families who made up the settlement at Pine Meadow (now Windsor Locks) the heads of eight had enlisted and Samuel Coy, the other one, enlisted in 1777. All the lead in the town was bought up for the army. Not a clock was left running in Windsor because all the weights had been taken for bullets. The following record helps tell the story: "Lead delivered to the Towns Men, 1776, clock wight lead."

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Captain Stoughton,    | 18 pounds |
| Captain Ellsworth,    | 30 "      |
| Rev. Mr. Hinsdale,    | 13 "      |
| Josiah Allyn,         | 28 "      |
| David Ellsworth, Jr., | 24 "      |
| Daniel Hayden,        | 24 "      |
| John Allyn,           | 14 "      |

In May, 1776, the General Assembly of Connecticut ordered the selectmen in the towns of Connecticut to take a census on or before the first day of the following September. The census returns for Windsor show the results in four parishes, the Old Parish, North Windsor, the Poquonock Parish and the Wintonbury Parish. The following list of inhabitants was returned:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Males under ten years.....                         | 299 |
| Females under ten years.....                       | 302 |
| Males between ten and twenty years, married.....   | 7   |
| Males between ten and twenty years, single.....    | 242 |
| Females between ten and twenty years, married....  | 7   |
| Females between ten and twenty years, single.....  | 219 |
| Males between twenty and seventy years, married..  | 325 |
| Males between twenty and seventy years, single.... | 134 |
| Females between twenty and seventy years, married  | 319 |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Females between twenty and seventy years, single | 157   |
| Males above seventy years, married-----          | 22    |
| Males above seventy years, single-----           | 19    |
| Females above seventy years, married-----        | 15    |
| Females above seventy years, single-----         | 14    |
| Negro males under twenty years-----              | 9     |
| Negro females under twenty years-----            | 8     |
| Negro males above twenty years-----              | 14    |
| Negro females above twenty years-----            | 6     |
| Indian males under twenty years-----             | 2     |
| Indian females under twenty years-----           | 2     |
| Indian males above twenty years-----             | 0     |
| Indian females above twenty years-----           | 2     |
| Total -----                                      | 2,124 |

The following excerpts from the records give glimpses of the folks at home struggling to support their soldiers in the army:

“At a town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Windsor, lawfully warned and held in Windsor, the 22d of April, 1777, for the purpose of doing the following business, viz: 1st, To see what method the town will take to encourage the proportion of soldiers assigned to the town of Windsor to enlist into the Continental Army, to supply the quota assigned to this town.

“2d, To choose a committee to provide necessaries for the families of all those persons belonging to the town of Windsor that shall enlist into the Continental Army at the price as stated by Law, and at said meeting Doct. Alex Wolcott chosen Moderator for said meeting.

“To raise a Rate or tax upon the list of the poles and rateable estate of the inhabitants of the town of Windsor, made and computed for August 20, 1776, of so much money upon the Pound as Will raise Thirty pound Lawful money for each able bodied effective man that belongs to the town of Windsor that has already enlisted into the Eight Battalions, including what they have already received as private encouragement for en-

listing, and are now actually in service in the Continental Army, or that shall enlist into either of the Eight Battalions ordered to be raised in the State of Connecticut for Continental Service on or before the 30th day of April instant, at 12 of the clock on the same day. Provided that not a larger number than 79 soldiers that shall enlist including the number already enlisted, the first 79 soldiers that shall enlist shall receive said sum, which said sum shall be paid to each soldier that has already enlisted or that shall enlist before said 30th day of April, inst. at 12 of the clock on said day, until said number be made up."

The census of 1776 showed only fourteen Negro men more than twenty years of age. Later documents show several of these serving in the army. The following records tell the story of one of them:

Windsor June 10th day 1777 These May Certify All whom it May Concern That Edward . . . a Negro Man Belonging to the Rev. Mr. David Sherman Rowland of Said Windsor Did on the Day Above Said Inlist Himself as a Privet Soldier in to the Continental Army and in the Company under the Command of Me the Subscriber and to Serve for the Term of war . . . or dureing the War Which Company Belongs to One of Eight Battalions to be Raised by the State of Connecticut

Certified Pr. Abner Prior Capt

Certified on the back as follows:

Windsor August ye 8th 1777 Then I ye Subscriber did Receive and order of ye Select men of Windsor upon ye Treasurer of S<sup>d</sup> Town for ye Sum of Thirty pounds money payable two Days after Sight thearof on account of my Negro man Edward Inlisting into Continental army as within Certified S<sup>d</sup> Sum being in Compliance with a Vote of This Town to Give to Each able body man y<sup>t</sup> Should Inlist into Either of ye Eight Battalions of ye Continental troops to be raised by ye State of Connecticut to make up ye Quota of men assigned to ye town of Windsor and Now in case S<sup>d</sup> Edward Negro man do not pass Muster and answer for one of ye Soldiers

assigned for ye quota of Men assigned to ye Town of Windsor  
 I Promise to pay S<sup>d</sup> Thirty pounds money back to ye Treas-  
 uror of S<sup>d</sup> Town with ye Lawfull Interest  
 for ye Same till the whole be paid as Witness  
 my hand the Day aboutv S<sup>d</sup>.

Edward Negro  
 Surtificate

David Rowland

December 28th, 1780

Ned Nigro Was Sold to Cap<sup>t</sup>. Prior  
 From me and I took it that he Was  
 Returned for part of the quota for  
 the town of Windsor

David Rowland

**Ammunition**

|      |   |     |       |            |
|------|---|-----|-------|------------|
|      | The State to Selectmen of Windsor   | Dr. |       |            |
| 1777 | To 376 b. 2 oz Lead a 9d.   |     | £ 14. | 2. 1.      |
|      | Running d <sup>o</sup> into ball a 10-pb  |     |       | 1. 17. 6.  |
|      | Select Mens Time about d <sup>o</sup> 6 days a 6d                               |     |       | 1. 16.     |
|      | D <sup>o</sup> Inspect <sup>r</sup> . & Transport <sup>r</sup> Salt Pete p Bill |     |       | 8. 1.      |
|      |   |     |       | <hr/>      |
|      |   |     |       | 25. 16. 7. |
|      |   |     |       | <hr/>      |

Journey to Hartford to settle &  
 pay<sup>r</sup> out Money 12  
 A True Copy as all<sup>d</sup>. at Pay Table Oct. 23<sup>d</sup>. 1777  
 p<sup>r</sup> O. Ellsworth one of Com<sup>tte</sup>.

The above Select Men have this day produced &  
 lodged Rects. & have Credit accordingly for 4,647½  
 lb. Salt Pete d<sup>d</sup>. at the Powder Mill. Oct. 23<sup>d</sup>. 1777  
 p<sup>r</sup> O. Ellsworth Com<sup>e</sup>. Pay Table

**Food**

Voated to raise a Rate or Tax of 12d on the Pound on the  
 List of the Poles and Rateable Estate of the Inhabitants of  
 the Town of Windsor made and computed for Aug. 20, 1779  
 to Defray the six pence on the Pound on said List Ordered  
 by the General Assembly at their last Session to be Paid in  
 Beafe, Pork or Flower at the Several Prices mentioned in said

Act, and every Person that shall Pay his Tax of Six Pence on the Pound above mentioned, in either of the Articles mentioned in Said Act by the Time limited in Said Act for the Delivery of said Article it shall fully Pay and Satisfy Said 12 Pence on the Pound on said List as Aforesaid.

Voated that John Allyn and Oliver Mather be a committee to take care and obtain the Salt and Procure Barrels and a Sufficient Number to contain the Pork, Beafe and Flower Mentioned and Pack and salt the same.

Surveys of the town were made to see how much grain each man had produced. If a man had produced more than the quota allowed for his family the authorities took the surplus and sold it or used it for the army. If another man had less than his quota he could buy from the town enough to make up the deficiency. An excerpt from one of the survey sheets showing four names under the letter "A" reads as follows:

|                  | Number of Persons in Each Family | Number of Bushells of Wheat | Meslin | Ry    | Corn  | Wheat flower | Meslin flower | Ry flower | Indian Meal | Each Man's Own Property | Surplus | Deficiency |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|
| Lt. Josiah Allyn | 5                                |                             | 7-16   | 10-16 | 22-16 | 132          | 116           | 84        | 25          | 67-24                   | 27-24   |            |
| Saml W Allyn     | 9                                | 4-27                        |        |       |       | 208          |               | 39        | 152         | 24-16                   |         | 47-16      |
| John Allyn       | 8                                |                             |        | 1     | 34    |              |               | 420       | 140         | 47-24                   |         | 16- 8      |
| John Allyn Jr    | 4                                |                             |        | 6     | 6     |              |               | 45        | 84          | 18-16                   |         | 13-16      |

The allowance for each person at the time this survey was made was 8 bushels. Lt. Allyn's allowance for a family of five was 40 bushels. Hence, having 67 bushels and 24 quarts as his "own property," his surplus was 27 bushels and 24 quarts. The other three families showed a deficiency.

**A Family Report of the Stock of Provisions on Hand**

A return of Provisions &c in the possession of Alex<sup>r</sup> Wolcott July 1<sup>th</sup> 1780

Viz Salt more than two Bushells—none

Rum more than one Hund<sup>d</sup> Gal—none

Beef and Pork more than two Barrels—none

Wheat—Flower—6 Bushells

Rye—6 Bushells

Indian Corn 23 Bushells

The Family consists of nine persons George Wolcotts family who live on the same Stock contains three persons—  
Windsor July 5<sup>th</sup> 1780 Alex Wolcott

**Certificate Showing Right to Purchase**

These May Certify that Samuel Rouse is Deficient in the Quantity of Grain Allow<sup>d</sup> Him for the Allowance of Himself and family is fourty Eight Bushells accounting is as Indian Corn. According to the Return by him Made To En' Phenias Wilson

Certified p<sup>r</sup> Henry Allen Register

On the back of this certificate is the following:

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Phinehas Wilson One Bushel of Indian Corn—  
Samul Rouse

Every bushel of grain received by the Selectmen had to be accounted for both when it was received and when it was sold. The following receipt and certificates show how it was done:

February 21<sup>st</sup> Day ADom 1780

Then Rec<sup>d</sup> of Henry Allyn Two Hundred and Seventy Dollars in Continental Money it Being for Nine Bushells of Ry that I the Subscriber or my Brother Timothy Let Cap<sup>t</sup> Abner Prior Have About Six Weeks ago which Sum is in full for the Same.

Rec<sup>d</sup> by Me Daniel Phelps

These Certify that Cap<sup>t</sup> Hez<sup>h</sup> Russel hath Deliv<sup>d</sup> Three Hund<sup>d</sup> bushells of Rye & Corn, one bb. Pork and two Casks of

Flower in Lyme, which is Dispos<sup>d</sup> of for the use of Inhabitants of The Town of Lyme, & for Soldiers Families

Lyme Ap<sup>l</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> 1779

|                            |   |                          |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Abel Hall                  | } | Select<br>Men<br>of Lyme |
| Sam <sup>el</sup> . Selden |   |                          |
| Daniel Lord                |   |                          |
| Seth Ely                   |   |                          |

Windsor June 15<sup>th</sup> A Dom 1779

Then I Jonathn Bissell Did This Day Above Said Purchas of Henry Allyn Two Bushells of Indian Corn Which is In-dorsed on A Surtificate from East Windsor Town Clerk

Jonathan Bisell

### Bill For Supplies

The following bill shows how supplies for the army were purchased from individuals by the town and transported to the army at Cambridge. When this was done the town presented a bill to the colony and asked for reimbursement.

| The Colony of Connecticut to the Town of Windsor  | Dr      |
|---|---------|
| To 1 Barrel of Pork Without Bone Wt 214 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -----   | 3—12—0  |
| To 1 Barrel of Pork Without Heads or Legs-----  | 3— 6—0  |
| To 707 <sup>th</sup> Grose W <sup>t</sup> of flower-----  | 5— 6—0  |
| To 100 of Bread -----   | 1— 5—0  |
| To 4 Barrels for flower Bread &c -----  | 0— 9—0  |
| To 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> Bushell of Pease -----   | 2— 5—0  |
| To 1 Terce for Pease -----  | 0— 4—0  |
| To 1 Six Cattel Team To Transport the Above<br>Articles to Cambridg Out 9 Days & Expences<br>& Two Men with the team----- | 10— 0—0 |
| To Procure a Waggon from Poquonock-----   | 0— 3—0  |
| To 500 of Hay & Presing -----   | 0—14—0  |
|   | 27—04—0 |

|                |   |               |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| David Elsworth | } | Select<br>Men |
| Henry Allyn    |   |               |
| Pel Mills      |   |               |

Windsor October 26<sup>th</sup> A Dom 1775 Then the Subscribers Did Receive of Henry Allyn the Several Different Sums Set Over each of Our Names Being on Account of the Above



Articles Sold to the Select men of Windsor to be by them  
Transported to Cambridg for the use of the Army.

|  | £   | s   | d  |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| To Cap <sup>t</sup> James Hooker for 1 Barrell of Pork-----<br>Rec <sup>d</sup> by me James Hooker | 3—  | 6—  | 0  |
| To M <sup>r</sup> Alexander Allin -----<br>Alex <sup>r</sup> Allin                                 | 2—  | 8—  | 0  |
| To Doc <sup>t</sup> Hez <sup>h</sup> Chaffe -----<br>Hezekiah Chaffee                              | 11— | 5—  | 4  |
| To John Filley -----<br>John Filley  | 0—  | 8—  | 10 |
| To Moses Wilson -----<br>Moses Wilson  | 1—  | 4—  | 0  |
| To Josiah Allyn for 20 <sup>th</sup> of flower-----<br>Josiah Allyn                                | 0—  | 2—  | 7  |
| To L <sup>t</sup> Samuel Filor for 28 <sup>th</sup> of flower & Bread All -----<br>Samuel Filer    | 0—  | 8—  | 2  |
| To Jonathan Elsworth Jr for Teaming &c-----<br>Jonathan Elsworth Jr                                | 2—  | 14— | 4  |

### Clothing

Dec. 1777 Voated that the Select Men of this Town Purchase or Procure as soon as may be upon the Best Terms that they can So many of the Sendry Articles of Cloathing as Requested by the Governor and Council of Safty at their meeting at Lebanon upon the 12<sup>th</sup> of September Last as are now wanting to make up the Quota assigned to the Town of Windsor for the Non Commission officers and Soldiers Raised for the Quota of Soldiers assigned for the Town of Windsor and that Actually Inlisted into the Continental Army for the term of Three years or During the War and forward the Same to the Commissioners as Requested and Bring in their Accounts Which Shall be Allowed and Paid by the Town Including Such Sum or Sums as Shall or May be Received from the Colony Treasurer or other ways by order of the General Assembly.

Voated that Nathaniel Griswold Have Twelve Pounds State Money Paid to him out of the Treasury of the Town upon his Procureing one Hundred and Eight Good Large Well Made Mens Shoes and one Hundred and Eight Pare of

Good Well Made Mens Stockings and Deliver the same to Mr. Elijah Hubbard Sub clother at Midletown by the tenth Day of May Next for and on Account of the Quota of Clothing shown and Stockings ordered by the General Assembly to be Provided by the Town of Windsor for each Non Commissioned officer and Soldier Required for this Town Quota of the Connecticut Line of the Continental Army to Serve for three years or Dureing the War he having no other Demand for the Same than said Twelve Pounds State money and also What Shall be Allowed by Paytable for the same.

Voated that Nathaniel Griswold and Salvanus Griswold Shall Take All Benefit that may be Had by a Permit Granted by His Exelency the Governor and counsil of Safety Granting to The Town of Windsor Liberty To Transport One thousand Bushells of Indian Corn or Rye or Ry flower Equivalent thereto to Rhode Island for the Purpose of Procureing Linning Cloth for frocks Shirts and over Halls for this Town Quota of clothing for the Army Agreeable to the Act or Acts of the General Assembly upon these conditions that they Lay out Sixty pounds, Hard money in Linning cloth Proper Good and Sutable for frocks, Shirts and Over Halls Provided they Procure the same by the tenth Day of May Next and Deliver the same to Mr. Elijah Hubbard for and on Account of the Town of Windsor and to have no other pay for the same then what said Hubbard Shall apprize the same at and be Allowed by Pay Table for the same.

The following list, one of many, shows how blankets were obtained:

Windsor March 7<sup>th</sup> 1777

Then Rec<sup>d</sup> of Daniel Bissell the Several Sums affixed to Our Names which is in full of all y<sup>e</sup> blankets Purchased or Impressed by s<sup>d</sup> Bissell for the army

|                         |   |    |   |
|-------------------------|---|----|---|
| David Elsworth          | 0 | 10 | — |
| Sarah Stiles            | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Eliakim Mather          | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Alex <sup>r</sup> Allin | 1 | 0  | 0 |
| Horace Hooker           | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Sam <sup>l</sup> Filer  | 1 | 0  | 0 |

|                  |          |           |          |
|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Mary Birge       | 1        | 15        | 0        |
| Lij Stoughton    | 1        | 0         | 0        |
| Hezekiah Chaffee | 1        | 0         | 0        |
|                  | <u>6</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>0</u> |

The following orders show how blankets were distributed to soldiers in service:

East Windsor 30<sup>th</sup> May 1777

Sir

Levi Charter is Inlisted in my Company in the Continental army, I am order<sup>d</sup> to furnish my men with armes and Blankets by applying to the Select men of the Town where the men are Recruite<sup>d</sup> Bayonet<sup>s</sup> and Cartouche boxes are included please to furnish him with the above mentioned articles and you<sup>ll</sup> Oblodge your Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

David Parsons Cap<sup>t</sup>

### Muster Rolls

The following is the complete list so far as we have been able to make one of the Windsor men who served in the Revolution.

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Corp. William Adams   | Edward Barnard               |
| Joseph Alford         | Joseph Barnard               |
| Lieut. Benjamin Allen | Joseph Barnard, Jr.          |
| Elisha Allyn          | Samuel Barnard               |
| George Allyn          | Moses Barnard                |
| Job Allyn             | Abel Barnes                  |
| John Allyn            | Stephen Barnes               |
| John Allyn, Jr.       | Jerimiah Barrett             |
| Joseph Allyn          | Henry Barzilla (colored)     |
| Moses Allyn           | Ezra Beckwith                |
| Solomon Allyn         | Adoniram Benton              |
| Thomas Allyn          | Elihu Benton                 |
| Samuel Andrus         | Jonathan Bidwell             |
| Joseph Ashford        | Ens. Cornelius Bissell       |
| Philander Atwood      | Lieut. David Bissell, Jr.    |
| Amaziah Barber        | Sgt. Daniel Bissell          |
| David Barber, Jr.     | Corp. Elias Bissell          |
| Capt. David Barber    | Capt. Ebenezer Fitch Bissell |
| Jerijah Barber        | Ebenezer Fitch Bissell, Jr.  |
| Reuben Barber         | John Bishop                  |
| Shubael Barber        | Jedidiah Blanchard           |
| Thomas Barber         | Daniel Bogue                 |
| Oliver Barber         | John Brister (colored)       |

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Daniel Brown               | David Daniels           |
| Elias Brown                | Burdon Davies           |
| Ezra Brown                 | William Davis           |
| Corp. Jude C. Brown        | Corp. Isaac Day         |
| Justus Brown               | Job Day                 |
| Michael Brown              | John Day                |
| Samuel Brown, Jr.          | Elihu Denslow           |
| Samuel Brownson            | Elijah Denslow          |
| —— Bugbee                  | Joel Denslow            |
| Asa Burr                   | Martin Denslow          |
| Samuel Burr                | Sgt. Reuben Denslow     |
| Thomas Burr                | Samuel Denslow, Jr.     |
| Zebulon Burroughs          | Elias DeWolf            |
| Thomas Burns               | Luke Diggins            |
| Cornelius Cahale           | Sgt. Stephen Dormant    |
| Daniel Cammarum            | Abiel Drake             |
| Patrick Canny              | Augustine Drake         |
| Benjamin Case, Jr.         | Ebenezer Drake          |
| Benoni Case                | Elihu Drake             |
| Ezekiel Case, Jr.          | Lemuel Drake            |
| Gideon Case                | Lory Drake              |
| Frederick Case             | Phineas Drake           |
| Oliver Case                | John Duset              |
| Luther Center              | Philemon Duset          |
| Isaac Chandler             | David Eggleston         |
| Levi Chandler              | Isaac Eggleston         |
| Frederick Chapman          | James Eggleston         |
| Levi Charter               | Joseph Eggleston        |
| Benjamin Clark             | Jonathan Eggleston      |
| Daniel Clark               | Nathaniel Eggleston     |
| David Clark                | Samuel Eggleston        |
| Elias Clark                | Thomas Eggleston        |
| Ezekiel Clark              | Timothy Eggleston       |
| Ezekiel Clark, Jr.         | Eliphalet Ellsworth     |
| George Clark               | Hezekiah Ellsworth      |
| Ira Clark                  | Licut. Reuben Ellsworth |
| Moses Clark                | Phineas Elmer           |
| Oliver Clark               | Daniel Ely              |
| Solomon Clark              | Abijah Enos             |
| Isaac Cluff                | Daniel Enos             |
| Louis Colton               | Erasmus Enos            |
| Samuel Colton              | Corp. James Enos        |
| David Colvin               | Moses Enos              |
| Jabez Colt                 | Gen. Roger Enos         |
| Abner Cook                 | Horace Filer            |
| Benjamin Cook              | John Filer              |
| Eli Cook                   | Norman Filer            |
| Joel Cook                  | Hezekiah Filley         |
| Moses Cook                 | Jonah Filley            |
| Richard Cook               | David Filley            |
| Shubael Cook               | Elnathan Filley         |
| Timothy Cook               | Mark Filley             |
| William Cook               | Moses Filley            |
| William Cook (another man) | Joseph Fitch            |
| Timothy Coon               | Sgt. Stephen Fosbury    |
| Samuel Coy                 | John Fosbury            |
| Elias Crow                 | Chauncey Foster         |
| Sampson Cuff (colored)     | Zachariah Foster        |

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Warham Foster               | Daniel Holliday, Jr.           |
| William Francis             | Ephraim Hollis                 |
| Obadiah Fuller              | Daniel Hooker                  |
| Reuben Fuller               | Alvin Hoolbod                  |
| Eliakim Gaylord             | Asa Hoskins                    |
| Eleazur Gaylord             | Elijah Hoskins                 |
| David Gibbs                 | Pere Hoskins                   |
| Rufus Gibbs                 | Timothy Hoskins                |
| Sgt. Samuel Gibbs           | Zebulon Hoskins                |
| John Giles                  | Simeon Hotchkiss               |
| Abel Gillet                 | Alexander Hurlburt             |
| Aaron Gillet                | Alvin Hurlburt                 |
| Daniel Gillet               | William Jacobs                 |
| Jonah Gillet, Jr.           | Reuben King                    |
| Jonathan Gillet             | John Keaton                    |
| Thomas Gillet               | John Laffer                    |
| John Gilman                 | Obed Lamberton, Jr.            |
| ——— Graham                  | Nathaniel Lamberton            |
| Amasa Green                 | William Lamberton              |
| Abiel Griswold              | Ahaliab Lattimer               |
| Corp. Alexander Griswold    | George Lattimer                |
| Capt. Edward Griswold, Jr.  | Sgt. Amos Lawrence             |
| Elijah Griswold             | Amos Lawrence, Jr.             |
| Elisha Griswold             | Oliver Lee                     |
| Friend Griswold             | Millard Leavitt                |
| Lieut. George Griswold      | Eliphalet Loomis               |
| Isaac Griswold              | George Loomis                  |
| Ens. Joab Griswold          | Gideon Loomis                  |
| Jonah Griswold              | Jonathan Loomis                |
| Sgt. Moses Griswold         | Stephen Loomis, Jr.            |
| Sgt. Nathaniel Griswold     | Lieut. Watson Loomis           |
| Noah Griswold, Jr.          | Benjamin Loomis                |
| Thomas Griswold             | Ephraim Loter                  |
| Phinehas Griswold           | Levi Loveland                  |
| Lieut. Silvanus Griswold    | Ephraim Lovewell               |
| Sgt. Solomon Griswold       | Aaron Lyon                     |
| William Hall                | Andrew Mack                    |
| Philip Halsey               | (Hessian joined patriot cause) |
| ——— Hamond (colored)        | William Manley                 |
| Ezra Hayden                 | Joseph Marsh                   |
| Sgt. Hezekiah Hayden        | Alexander Marshall             |
| Levi Hayden                 | Elijah Marshall                |
| Capt. Nathaniel Hayden, Jr. | Elihu Marshall                 |
| Oliver Hayden               | Elisha Marshall                |
| Sgt. Thomas Hayden          | Josiah Marshall                |
| Jabez Haskell               | Samuel Marshall, Jr.           |
| Thomas Hayes                | Sgt. Elihu Mather              |
| Thaddeus Hyde               | Increase Mather                |
| Theophilus Hyde             | John Mather                    |
| Elijah Hill                 | Samuel Mather                  |
| John Hill                   | Dr. Timothy Mather             |
| Reuben Hill                 | John May                       |
| Amos Holcomb                | Neil McLean, Jr.               |
| Elijah Holcomb              | Joseph Millard                 |
| Sgt. Joseph Holcomb         | John Miller                    |
| Martin Holcomb, Jr.         | Roswell Miller                 |
| Matthew Holcomb             | Elijah Mills, Jr.              |
| Daniel Holliday, Sr.        | Roger Mills                    |

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oliver Mitchell (Colored)   | Nathaniel Pinney         |
| Asa Moore                   | Noah Pinney              |
| Benjamin Moore              | Phylaster Pinney         |
| Eldad B. Moore              | Jonathan Pomeroy         |
| Elisha Moore                | Daniel Porter            |
| Philander Moore             | Daniel Porter, Jr.       |
| Simeon Moore                | Capt. Abner Prior        |
| Sgt. James Morris           | Allen Prior              |
| William Monroe              | Sgt. Abner Prior, Jr.    |
| Samuel Monroe               | Dr. Primus (colored)     |
| Corp. Alpheus Munsell       | —— Providence (colored)  |
| Ned Negro                   | —— Plymouth (colored)    |
| (Slave of David S. Rowland) | Daniel Rice              |
| Israel Negus                | Clark Roberts            |
| Gen. Roger Newberry         | John Roberts             |
| Moses Niles                 | Capt. Lemuel Roberts     |
| Thomas Niles                | Paul Roberts             |
| Roswell Nobles              | Peter Roberts            |
| Alvan Owen                  | Daniel Rowel             |
| John Palmer                 | John Rowel               |
| Peletiah Parsons            | Philander Rowel          |
| William Parsons             | Roger Rowel              |
| Thomas Parsons              | Job Rowley               |
| Aaron Perkins               | John Rowley              |
| Alexander Phelps            | Silas Rowley             |
| Austin Phelps               | David Rowland            |
| Asahel Phelps               | Sherman Rowland          |
| Corp. Cornelius Phelps      | Daniel Royce             |
| Daniel Phelps, Sr.          | Samuel Royce             |
| Daniel Phelps, Jr.          | Lieut. Cornelius Russell |
| Eli Phelps                  | Cornet Russell           |
| Elijah Phelps               | John Russell             |
| Corp. Elisha Phelps         | —— St. John              |
| Edward Phelps               | Joseph Seymour           |
| Elihu Phelps                | Ens. John Seymour        |
| Enoch Phelps                | William Seymour          |
| Sgt. Isaac Phelps           | Remembrance Sheldon      |
| Isaac Phelps, 2nd           | Dr. Elisha N. Sill       |
| Jesse Phelps                | Isaac Skinner            |
| Job Phelps                  | Abner Sled               |
| Corp. John Phelps           | Elijah Smith             |
| Josiah Phelps               | John Smith, 4th          |
| Timothy Phelps, Jr.         | Lieut. Seth Smith        |
| Launcelot Phelps            | Timothy Soper            |
| Oliver Phelps               | Ambrose Sperry           |
| Capt. Seth Phelps           | Nathaniel Stanley        |
| Corp. William Phelps        | —— Stannard              |
| Zaccheus Phelps             | Robert Starks            |
| Phineas Pickett             | Ashbel Stiles            |
| Aaron Pinney                | Elijah Stoughton         |
| Abram Pinney                | Ens. Samuel Stoughton    |
| Isaac Pinney                | Samuel Taylor            |
| Sgt. John Pinney            | John Taylor              |
| Jonathan Pinney             | Stephen Taylor           |
| Juda Pinney                 | William Taylor           |
| Corp. Levi Pinney           | Elijah Thompson          |
| Sgt. Martin Pinney          | David Thrall             |

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Ezekiel Thrall          | Amos Westland, Jr.  |
| Isaac Thrall            | Robert Westland     |
| Jesse Thrall            | Hezekiah Wheeler    |
| Giles Thrall            | John Wheeler        |
| Luke Thrall             | John Whiting        |
| William Thrall          | Abiel Wilson        |
| Peter Tomina            | Calvin Wilson       |
| Timothy Troy            | James Wilson        |
| Thomas Vandusen         | Joel Wilson, Jr.    |
| Patteshall Wakefield    | Moses Wilson        |
| Abraham Wallace         | Samuel Wilson       |
| Joseph Wallace          | John Wilson         |
| Jesse Wall              | John Winchell       |
| Abner Ward              | Joseph Winchell     |
| Isaac Wardwell          | Oliver Winchell     |
| Ebenezer Wardwell       | Joseph Wing         |
| George Warner           | Moses Wing          |
| Israel Warner           | Roger Wing          |
| Loomis Warner           | Sgt. Samuel Wing    |
| Micah Webster           | Solomon Wood        |
| Aaron Webster           | Oliver Woodward     |
| Timothy Webster         | Samuel Woodruff     |
| Corp. Zephaniah Webster | Ebenezer Woolworth  |
| Ebenezer Welch          | Christopher Wolcott |
| Lemuel Welch            | George Wolcott      |
| Gershom West            | Corp. Abel Wright   |
| Joseph Westland         | Ebenezer Young      |

Two men of the Revolutionary period, Judge Oliver Ellsworth and Sergeant Daniel Bissell, deserve especial mention. Their sketches will be found under Persons of Note.

### Windsor Sea Trade

Within two years after the treaty of peace that followed the Revolutionary War, the following memorial was addressed "To the Honourable General Assembly to be Holden at Hartford on the Second Thursday of May 1785—

The Memorial of us the Subscribers Inhabitants of the first Society in East Windsor Proprietors & Owners of Land, on the Bank of Connecticut River About Two Miles in Length Humbly Showeth—

That the Navigation of Said River is of Great Importance to this State as thereby a Large and Benefical Trade is Carried on by Sea, and into the Large and Extensive Country Northward the Profits of Which Principally Center in this State—That the Navigation of said River is Greatly Impeaded and Obstructed by reason of Barr<sup>s</sup> and Shoals in it Occationed by the Sand<sup>s</sup> Washing into the Brooks from the Adjoyning

Roads and by the Waters of said Brooks Carried into the Bed of the River and Abstract and Choak the Same Which Occasions the Waters of Said River to wear away the Banks of the River Which Consists of a fine Loomy Earth and the River thereby Increases in Wedth, and Decreases in Debth So that in Summer Seasons it is with Great Dificulty that even Rafts of Lumber and Loaded Boats Pass by Said Town and your Memorilists Being fully Convinced that Said Barrs and Shoals May be Removed by Confining the River to Narrouer Limits and that the Accretion to the Adjoining Lands and their increased value would Repay the Expence to the Propriator of Said Lands and Are Willing and Desirous to Make an Attempt of this Kind Provided the Design Should Meat with your Honour's Patronage and your Honour's will Compell the Propriator's of the Adjoyning Lands from the North Side of Benjamin Wolcott's Lott to the North Bounds of Said Society or So Many of them as a Committe of Disinterested & Judicious Men Shall Judg to be their Just and Reasonable Part of the Expence—Whereupon we the Subscribers Humbly Pray that your Honour's would Appoint a Judicious and Disinterested Committee and Impower them at the Expence of the Propriator's of the Lands Adjoyning to Said River Within the Aforesaid Bounds to Errect Such and So Many Wares & Obstruction's in Said River Within Said Limits as they shall Judg Nessary and Convenient with Power to Tax the Proprietors of Said Adjoyning Lands or so many of them and In Such Proportion as Said Committe Judg Just and Reasonable to Defray the Expence therof with Power to Appoint Collector's to Gather Said Taxes."

|           |                 |                |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Signed by | Erastus Wolcott | Aaron Bissell  |
|           | Amasa Loomis    | Elisha Bissell |
|           | Eli Moore       |                |

The foregoing request was granted in the following resolution:

"Resolved by this Assembly that Joel Loomis, Samuel Treet & Fradrick Elsworth of East Windsor—

Be a Committe and they Are Hereby Appointed a Committe with full Power and Authority from Time to Time at the Expence of the Propriators and Owner's of the Lands on the



Bank of the Connecticut River and Adjoyning Island Betwixt the North Bound of the first Society in East Windsor and the North Bound<sup>s</sup> of the Home Lott of Benjamin Wolcott to Erect Such and So many Wharves & Obstructions in Said River Within Said Bound<sup>s</sup> as they Judg Nessary for the Purpos Aforesaid and to Defray the Expençe thereof Said Committe are Hereby Authorised & Impowered from Time to Time to Assess and Tax the Owners of Said Adjoyning Land or So Many of them and Such Proportion as they Judg Just and Reasonable Haveing Regard to the Benifit received or to be Received—and to Appoint a Collector or Collectors to Collect Said Taxes Which Collectors shall Have a Warrant Signed by Some Assistant or Justice of Peac<sup>e</sup> (not Interested) Impowering and Directing Said Collector to Collect Said Taxes and Pay the Same to Said Committee or their Successors for the Use and Purpose Aforesaid—”

### Building a Ship

An illustration of the way in which ship building was carried on a hundred fifty years ago is found in the following contract preserved among the historical records in the possession of Mrs. Carrie Marshall Kendrick:

“Whereas we the Subscribers, Thomas Griswold, Abiel Brown, Pliny Hilyer, & Phinehas Griswold, have mutually agreed and Concluded to Build, Rig, equip & Load fit for Sea a Schooner or Sloop of about eighty Tons Burthen on the Bank of Windsor Ferry River in the Parish of Poquonock in Windsor in equal shares, viz. each of us one fourth part thereof without it should so happen that any of us have at any time a mind to sell himself out of said Vessel he shall have liberty so to do, he first giving the rest of the owners of said Vessel the offer of purchasing his part thereof on the same terms that he can sell for to any other person, who may, if they or any of them please, purchase his part in said Vessel. . . .

To the above Articles of agreement we now Mutually agree & set to our hands and seals this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September Anno Domini 1784.

|                |                              |        |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Signed sealed  | Thomas Griswold              | [Seal] |
| & delivered    | Abial Brown                  | [Seal] |
| in presence of | Pliny Hillyer                | [Seal] |
| Caivin Wilson  | Phin <sup>s</sup> . Griswold | [Seal] |
| Joab Griswold  |                              |        |

These documents prepare us for understanding the following statements that have been handed down to us from the days of the Revolution:

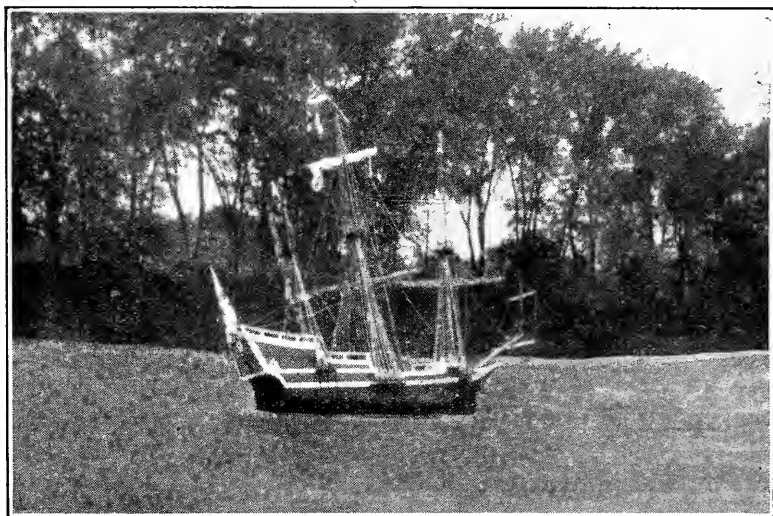
Prior to and during the Revolution the Palisado Green was the commercial centre of the town. Here was the great firm of Hooker and Chaffee, known thru the length and breadth of the country for its extensive dealings and its high mercantile honor. It is said that they had a house south of the old parsonage where they made barrel staves, sent them to the West Indies, where they were made into barrels or hogsheads and sent back filled with West India rum and molasses.

The Hooker and Chaffee houses are still standing on the east side of Palisado Green. North of the Hooker house and somewhat back stood the old store and packing house. From every portion of the country there were constantly pouring in large supplies of horses, beef, cattle, wheat, and produce of every sort. An eye-witness testifies that one could sometimes count thirty teams in the road waiting their turn. The merchants sometimes retailed a hogshead of molasses in a single day.

There being no bridge in Hartford at that time to obstruct the navigation of the river, Windsor was a port of entry and West India and other foreign goods were during a part of the year landed at the Rivulet ferry. Sometimes six or seven coasting vessels lay under the bank of the Little River, and generally some larger English or West India vessels. Their Trade to Liverpool and the West Indies was then quite extensive, and the Green was lively with hearty sea captains and jolly sailors. Several of these captains resided here. Among them was Capt. Nathaniel Howard, who always brought home from his visits to foreign ports a little stock of fine silks and choice goods, which his wife sold from her store in the house now owned by the Windsor Historical Society.

One hundred years ago whaling vessels were employed between whaling voyages or in connection with them for transporting merchandise. They regularly came up the Farmington River and took on cargoes of brick for various ports of the world. Often while on the northern ocean the crew of one of these vessels would sight a whale and pursue it. If the whale were captured it would become necessary to throw overboard some of the bricks in order to make room for the more valuable cargo of whale oil. This led to the saying among the brick-makers that the floor of the Arctic Ocean was paved with Windsor bricks.

Residents of Poquonock who can remember as far back as 1875 or 1880 report that coal was then brought on barges for the use of the Paper Mill at Poquonock and delivered at a wharf near Elm Grove, and in the spring time fertilizer was often carried on barges nearly to the lower Tunxis dam at Poquonock.



#### A REPRODUCTION OF THE MARY AND JOHN

The ship that brought the Rev. John Warham and his congregation from Plymouth, England, to New England in 1630. This photograph was taken on the Farmington River during the Tercentenary Celebration of the First Church in 1930.

### The Constitution of 1818

With the winning of the War of the Revolution Connecticut became a free and sovereign state, but the citizens of the generation that had broken the shackles of their bondage to an English king had failed to free themselves from the unjust social, religious, and political domination of the Established Order of their time. Before the Revolution, the Established Order, which was another name for the Congregational Church's affiliation with the civil government, made that church in effect the state church. In the early days nothing else could reasonably have been expected, for the first settlements were made up largely of members of the Congregational Churches, who came together and settled together. Windsor's first settlement from Plymouth was not an organized church, but the great migration that came later from Dorchester included a pastor and his congregation, who established their home in Windsor with a complete church organization.

The same was true of Hartford and of Wethersfield. In New Haven and elsewhere the early settlers were Congregationalists and Connecticut became a Congregational state. To support the Congregational ministry the people were taxed and legislation was framed and executed in accordance with Congregational belief and practice. Political preferment and social prestige were dominated by the clergy and the church officials. After a time other sects were scattered here and there thruout the state and they claimed the right to equal recognition in social position and in the honors and emoluments of public office, but at first with little success. However, in 1770, an act of toleration was passed and it was provided that "No persons in this colony professing the Christain Protestant religion, who soberly and conscientiously dissent from the worship and ministry established or approved by the laws of this colony, and attend public worship by themselves, shall incur any of the penalties . . . for not attending the worship and ministry so established on the Lord's day, or on account of their meeting together by themselves on said day for the worship of God in a way agreeable to their consciences."

When the Constitution of the United States was submitted to the people of Connecticut for rejection or approval, it was approved in the convention called for that purpose by a vote of 128 to 40. In the years immediately following Connecticut became a stronghold of the Federalist political faith. For the next quarter of a century the Established Order rested on the double support of the Congregational Church and the Federalist Party. Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists, and some other dissenters loudly protested because of the discriminations that were made against them.

To escape paying taxes for the support of the Congregational Church it was necessary for citizens to file with the clerk of that church a certificate and prove membership in some other church. The following are typical of the period prior to 1818.

Windsor, Dec. 5th, 1817

I now certify according as the law requesteth that I belong to the Baptist Society in Windsor. Hez<sup>h</sup> H. Palmer

Windsor, Dec<sup>br</sup> 4th, 1817

I would certify as the Law directs that I belong to the Methodist Society in Windsor. Dyer Harris.

These dissenters called for the adoption of a written constitution that should guarantee their rights. The state was still living under the type of government made possible by the charter of 1662. Some liberal Federalists espoused the cause of those who called for a constitution. The battle waxed hotter and hotter. The dissenters demanded that "legal religion" be abolished and that the "union of church and state be forever dissolved" and clerical domination ended. The adherents of the Established Order characterized their opponents as atheists, infidels, Sabbath-breakers, rum-sellers, revolutionists, demagogues, Democrats, and ruff-scuff generally.

Into this struggle plunged a native son of Ancient Windsor. His name was John M. Niles. He became the leader of the reform movement and demanded an extension of the right of suffrage and the abolition of the special privileges enjoyed by the Congregational Church.

To promote his views and those of the reform party he established the Hartford Times in January, 1817. For several years the reform party had been gaining strength. The power and influence of John M. Niles and his newspaper, of which he now became the editor, were sufficient to turn the tide and carry the dissenters to final victory in 1818. Windsor's share in this "revolution" is indicated by the following votes passed in town meeting on January 19 of that year.

Voted that the people of the state of Connecticut ought to have a written constitution; that it is expedient to form a written constitution of civil government and that the General Assembly at their session in May are hereby requested to adopt such measures as they may deem proper to effect this object; and that the representatives from this town to the next General Assembly are requested to present an attested copy of these votes to the Assembly.

A constitutional convention was called to meet in Hartford on August 20, 1818, to draft a constitution. Eliakim Marshall and Josiah Phelps were sent as delegates from Windsor. The convention finished its work on September 15 and the draft of the proposed constitution was read for the approval or rejection of the delegates. Both delegates from Windsor voted their approval. A majority of the entire convention also approved by a vote of 134 to 61 and the document was sent to all the towns in the state for their ratification or rejection. The decision was made on October 5 following.

The vote in Windsor was recorded as 149 yeas and 141 nays. In the state the vote stood 13,918 yeas and 12,364 nays. By a majority of 1554 the new constitution was declared adopted. Much of the new document was a reaffirmation of the guiding principles laid down in the charter of 1662, but the separation of church and state, for which the reformers had fought so long and so vigorously, was made effective in the first six sections, which read as follows:

### **We Declare**

Sec. 1. That all men when they form a social compact are equal in rights; and that no man or set of men are entitled

to exclusive public emoluments or privileges from the community.

Sec. 2. That all political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit, and that they have at all times an undeniable and indefeasable right to alter their form of government in such manner as they may think expedient.

Sec. 3. The exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination, shall forever be free to all persons in this State; provided that the right hereby declared and established shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or to justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state.

Sec. 4. No preference shall be given by law to any Christian sect or mode of worship.

Sec. 5. Every citizen may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty.

Sec. 6. No law shall ever be passed to curtail or restrain the liberty of speech, or of the press.

### The War of 1812

During the decade in which the citizens of Connecticut had carried on a successful revolution to secure a state constitution, which should guarantee their civil and religious rights, the nation was called upon to wage another war in defense of what was popularly called "Free Trade and Sailors' Rights." It was claimed that England deprived United States citizens of their rights upon the high seas and refused to carry out some of the promises she had made at the close of the Revolution.

For this war Windsor was called upon to furnish her share of the country's defenders. Particular campaigns and incidents in which these men participated are little known, but the following list of Windsor names found on the muster rolls of the army shows that the town was not lacking in loyalty.

Grove Ellsworth  
 Jasper Morgan, Sr.  
 Roswell Denslow  
 Ethan Barker, Jr.  
 Guy Talcott  
 Reuben Cook  
 Martin Ellsworth  
 William Mack  
 Philip Halsey  
 James R. Halsey  
 Timothy Wilson  
 Achsah Birge  
 Capt. C. Porter  
 Roswell Cook  
 Job Holden  
 Harvey Stoughton  
 Warren Barber  
 Henry Clark  
 Dryden Holcomb  
 Col. Chester Soper  
 Cyrus Griswold

Fredus Griswold  
 Fredus Case  
 William Alford  
 Abiel B. Griswold  
 Guy Griswold  
 Samuel Hatheway, Jr.  
 Samuel Hatheway, Sr.  
 Jehiel House  
 Cyrus Howe  
 Warham Griswold  
 Eliphalet G. Allyn  
 Zophar Case  
 Philip Barnes  
 William Blanchard  
 Allen Burr  
 Ethan Merrill  
 Zardus Case  
 Josiah Phelps  
 Harlow Case  
 David Holcomb

### The Mexican War

The Mexican War of 1846-1848, regarded by anti-slavery leaders as a war for the expansion of territory and the extension of slavery, naturally evoked little enthusiasm among the descendants of men who had come to Windsor in search of freedom. We have no detailed record of the services of the few men who enlisted from Windsor. In the cemetery records we find the name of one man who was a soldier in Mexico. It is the name of Christopher W. Halsey, whose service bears testimony to his belief in the justice of his country's cause. The names of Edward Chapman, Timothy Filler and Charles W. Scott are also recorded in the Adjutant-General's office as serving from Windsor.

### The Civil War

When we come to the Civil War, what a different story the old town was prepared to tell! Enthusiasm for the cause of human freedom brought young men rushing to defend the Union. The list of those who went to the front is long and honorable. The following names recorded in Stiles' Ancient Windsor comprise as complete a roster as we have been able to find of those who risked their lives that the nation might live.



The list of soldiers furnished to the U. S. service in the Civil War from the town of Windsor, Conn.

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Adams, Solomon H.   | Foot, George W.      |
| Allen, Giles D.     | Fox, Hiram S.        |
| Allyn, Chauncey M.  | French, Allen D.     |
| Allyn, Henry W.     | Gette, William       |
| Austin, Frank       | Gladding, Adney B.   |
| Archer, Charles B.  | Goswell, Philip      |
| Bailey, Garret T.   | Graham, William E.   |
| Baldwin, William H. | Green, Edmund B.     |
| Barber, Edward L.   | Griswold, Edwin J.   |
| Barnes, George W.   | Griswold, Everett    |
| Barthwick, Walter   | Griswold, Norris     |
| Baugh, Eugene       | Hale, Charles O.     |
| Bramiger, John      | Halsey, Henry A.     |
| Brandt, Henry S.    | Hamlin, Noah C.      |
| Brown, William E.   | Harper, George       |
| Buck, D. Winthrop   | Harris, William      |
| Buck, F. Clarence   | Harvey, Horace L.    |
| Bumstead, John W.   | Harvey, James H.     |
| Burke, Richard J.   | Hayden, Levi         |
| Burns, John, Jr.    | Hodge, James L.      |
| Carney, John B.     | Holcomb, Mortimer    |
| Case, Edward        | Holcomb, Pliny A.    |
| Cassidy, Hugh       | Hollister, Edward H. |
| Chase, William      | Holders, Charles H.  |
| Clark, Ansil B.     | Holt, Moses P.       |
| Clarke, Sanford     | House, James H.      |
| Clarke, Warren G.   | House, William A.    |
| Clark, Grove        | Hosmer, Albert       |
| Clay, Hugh          | Howard, William E.   |
| Clinton, Henry      | Johnson, Barney L.   |
| Conroy, James       | Jones, Joseph J.     |
| Cook, Edward W.     | Jones, Franklin      |
| Cooper, Erwin L.    | Kapser, William      |
| Cooper, George A.   | Keeney, Buell        |
| Corbin, William     | Kirk, Edgar A.       |
| Cumming, William    | Kirk, Henry E.       |
| Daniels, Charles    | Kirk, Roderic        |
| Daniels, Horace     | Lawrence, James      |
| Day, Orson          | Linnen, John         |
| Delaney, William    | Londergan, James R.  |
| Dorman, Elliot L.   | Loomis, Edward W.    |
| Down, James W.      | Loomis, G. Gilbert   |
| Drake, William H.   | Loomis, Simeon       |
| Dutting, Henry      | Loomis, James L.     |
| Ellsworth, Eli P.   | Lynch, James         |
| Ensign, Robert E.   | Lynch, John          |
| Everest, William C. | Mack, Henry C.       |
| Farnell, James      | Marble, Amos M.      |
| Feney, William F.   | Mason, James         |
| Fenton, George A.   | McCall, Jabez B.     |
| Fenton, John M.     | McNally, Patrick     |
| Finn, John          | Miller, Francis D.   |
| Florange, Michael   | Miller, Moses M.     |
| Florange, Peter     | Miller, Richard      |

Mills, Alfred W.  
 Moffatt, Russell A.  
 Monroe, William  
 Mooney, John  
 Montgomery, Lewis O.  
 Morgan, Jasper, Jr.  
 Morrison, Sylvester P.  
 Murphy, Cornelius  
 Murphy, Timothy  
 O'Keefe, Fred I.  
 Palmer, Osbert H.  
 Parsons, Henry N.  
 Peck, Edward I.  
 Pedro, John  
 Perkins, William M.  
 Pettengell, Stephen B.  
 Phelps, Elizur D.  
 Phelps, Ellsworth N.  
 Porter, Edward  
 Potter, Gilbert W.  
 Prince, Amasa P.  
 Radcliff, Charles G.  
 Raymond, John W.  
 Recor, George D.  
 Reed, William  
 Reynolds, Walter  
 Rockwood, Newell P.  
 Rodgers, Harvey G.  
 Rodgers, William F.  
 Rook, William  
 Rowland, George C.  
 Sarsfield, John  
 Scales, Samuel J.  
 Semple, John W.  
 Sergeant, Albert

Severance, Melvin A.  
 Sharp, William  
 Shelton, George T.  
 Shanz, Baltas  
 Shinnars, James  
 Smith, Benajah E.  
 Smith, Charles  
 Smith, George O.  
 Smith, John  
 Smith, Joseph M.  
 Smith, Peter  
 Snyder, Philip  
 Soper, Edward B.  
 Soper, Henry L.  
 Soper, William A.  
 Sothergill, Robert  
 Steamer, John  
 Stirrmer, Charles  
 Strickland, Sidney E.  
 Sullivan, James  
 Swan, George P.  
 Thain, Charles H.  
 Tennant, Charles J.  
 Thirlkell, Thomas  
 Thrall, Edward F.  
 Trumbull, George H.  
 Turhune, John  
 Vibert, George  
 Vurnan, Edward  
 Warner, Francis R.  
 Warriner, William D.  
 Welch, Martin  
 Wells, Frank  
 Wilson, William

### The Spanish American War

During the presidency of William McKinley our country became involved in another war, which fortunately proved to be of short duration. This time it was a conflict with Spain growing out of an insurrection in Cuba, which called forth the sympathy of Americans because of the terrible sufferings of the Cubans, involved financial interests in the United States, and led to the sending of the United States battleship Maine to the city of Havana, where she was destroyed by an explosion, which may have been accidental, but which was generally believed to have been caused by some one in sympathy with the Spanish in their attempt to subdue the Cubans.

On April 11, 1898, President McKinley asked Congress for authority to use the military and naval forces of the United

States to bring an end to hostilities between Spain and Cuba and to secure the establishment of a stable government for Cuba. This meant war. The excitement was great. Military preparation and action were hurried. The war was fought in Cuba, Porto Rico, and in the Philippines and everywhere the army and navy of the United States were successful. By fall the war was over, except for native insurrections in the Philippines. So brief and one sided a war did not call for large enlistments, but Windsor men were prompt to provide their share of soldiers and sailors who served in the various campaigns.

The following list may not be complete, because some men considered to be Windsor men were listed in the army records as belonging to other places, where they happened to be at the time of their enlistment. However, it is as nearly complete as we have been able to make it.

|                      |                   |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Frank Elisha Fuller  | Lewis J. Bennett  | Joseph Wylie     |
| Harry Bell Case      | William C. Murphy | Ralph H. Embler  |
| Walter S. Hastings   | John W. Murphy    | Merlin A. Pierce |
| William Harry Abbott | James J. Cosgrove | Frank L. Young   |
|                      | Timothy Sullivan  |                  |

Wilbur L. Gillette, killed in the Philippines.

Walter C. Webb, died in the Philippines.

Philip Remington was promoted to the rank of colonel and rendered distinguished service in the Philippines.

### The Windsor Veteran Battalion

In 1866, one year after the close of the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, Illinois. It was composed of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who had served in the Union Army. Its chief purpose was maintaining the fraternal bonds which the war had created and which then united those who had fought in a common cause; to perpetuate the memory and preserve the history of those who had died; and to give assistance to the needy and their widows and orphans. One of its special activities was to aid in the establishment of the national observance of Memorial Day.

While local posts were established in almost every important town in the North and West, Windsor never had an organization under the usual name. Instead of forming a post the local veterans organized about fifteen years after the close of the war under the name of the Windsor Veteran Battalion of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1881 the town voted that the selectmen be instructed to give an order on the town treasurer for the payment of Fifty Dollars to the treasurer of the Windsor Veteran Battalion to pay the expenses of Decoration Day. The appropriation for this purpose has now become a regular item in the town's financial budget and the amount has been raised to Two Hundred Dollars.

By 1920 the diminishing ranks of the aged veterans gave sad but unmistakable evidence that the time had come for younger men to take up the burden that the old soldiers had borne.

On April 19 of that year the work was taken over by the Sons of Veterans and the Battalion was reorganized with Fred. W. Morgan as Commander; Adelbert DuBon, Vice-Commander, and William S. Leek, Secretary and Treasurer. The name of the organization remained unchanged.

The following is the list of officers to date:

|       | Commanders       | Vice-Commanders    | Secretary<br>and Treasurer |
|-------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1921. | Adelbert Dubon   | Walter S. Hastings | William S. Leek            |
| 1922. | W. S. Hastings   | Arthur G. Barnes   | "                          |
| 1923. | Arthur G. Barnes | Charles T. Lewis   | "                          |
| 1924. | Charles T. Lewis | Walter L. Wolf     | "                          |
| 1925. | Walter L. Wolf   | Stanley C. Foot    | "                          |
| 1926. | Stanley C. Foot  | Philip Wolf        | "                          |
| 1927. | Philip Wolf      | Thomas J. Mullen   | "                          |
| 1928. | Thos. J. Mullen  | William S. Leek    | "                          |
| 1929. | William S. Leek  | Godfrey Baker      | Charles T. Lewis           |
| 1930. | George A. Jones  | John M. Cook       | "                          |
| 1931. | John M. Cook     | M. L. J. Higgins   | "                          |
| 1932. | M. L. J. Higgins | Adelbert DuBon     | "                          |
| 1933. | M. L. J. Higgins | Adelbert DuBon     | "                          |
| 1934. | Godfrey Baker    | H. W. Ellingwood   | "                          |
| 1935. | W. S. Hastings   | William S. Leek    | "                          |

(The names abbreviated above are, when written in full: Walter S. Hastings, Harold W. Ellingwood, Mortimer L. J. Higgins, grandson of Mortmier L. Johnson a Rear-Admiral in the Civil War).

The usual Memorial Day program includes an address in one of the town halls together with patriotic songs, music and the recitation of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address by some pupil from the public schools, but the chief feature is the decoration of the soldiers' graves by the children, who march to the cemeteries in procession led by the Sons of Veterans, the American Legion, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and allied groups and organizations accompanied by the Windsor Band.

### **The Daughters of the American Revolution**

The Abigail Wollcott Ellsworth Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is outstanding among the chapters of Connecticut for its patriotic work and educational activities. It was named in honor of the wife of Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth and organized December 8, 1894.

Its Regents have been:

Mrs. Newton S. Bell, December 8, 1894, to December 5, 1896  
Mrs. Lucien B. Loomis, December 5, 1896, to June 15, 1903.  
Miss Jennie Loomis, June 15, 1903, to May 18, 1926  
Miss Mary C. Welch, May 18, 1926, to May 15, 1930  
Mrs. Eleazer Pomeroy, May 15, 1930, to October 17, 1933  
Mrs. Clayton P. Chamberlin, October 17, 1933—

The present officers (May 1, 1935) are:

Regent, Mrs. Clayton P. Chamberlin.

Vice-Regents, Mrs. S. Royce Braman and Mrs Philip F. Ellsworth.

Chaplain, Miss Jennie Loomis.

Secretary, Miss May L. Dickson.

Treasurer, Mrs. Alfred W. Olds.

Registrar, Miss Alice E. Morgan.

Historian, Mrs. Reuben D. Warner.

Librarian, Miss Kate P. Safford.

In 1898 the chapter was responsible for the placing of a boulder on the "Island" to mark the site of the first English settlement in Connecticut. Later the chapter placed a bronze tablet upon the Windsor Center grammar school to commemorate the work of Roger Ludlow, framer of the Fundamental

Orders of Connecticut. Many prizes have been awarded by the chapter to pupils in the local schools to encourage the writing of historical essays and to promote high ideals of citizenship. Money and material for Americanization and educational work have been contributed to many individuals and institutions, particularly to the American International College at Springfield, Mass., and Maryville College at Maryville, Tenn.

In 1903 the one hundred sixteen heirs of Oliver Ellsworth presented the Ellsworth Homestead to the Connecticut D. A. R. for their headquarters and the local chapter is brought into frequent and intimate association with the state officers and members of other chapters, who come to Windsor for conferences, pilgrimages, and conventions.

### **Children of the American Revolution**

On December 29, 1931, a new patriotic society was organized with its membership limited to boys and girls under twenty-one years of age, who can trace their ancestry to a Revolutionary soldier or to some one who rendered a patriotic service in connection with the Revolutionary War. The organization was sponsored by the Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and took its name from a Windsor boy of the Revolutionary period, who was noted for his ardent patriotism and spectacular denunciation of King George the Third and his treatment of his subjects in America. It is known as the Elihu Drake Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution.

The object of the society is declared to be "The acquisition of knowledge of American history; to help preserve the places made sacred by the men and women who forwarded American Independence; to love, uphold and extend the institutions of American liberty and patriotism and the principles that made and saved our country."

The present officers are:

Senior President, Mrs. S. Royce Braman

Junior President, John Benson

Vice-President, Edith Mather  
Secretary, Mary Ellsworth  
Treasurer, Dickinson Morse  
Historian, Preston Goslee  
Registrar, Barbara Benson  
Color Bearer, Jerry Merrill  
Sergeant-at-Arms, Jules Lenard

### The World War

The year 1917 saw the United States enter the World War, which had raged in Europe since 1914. War activities of every kind now controlled the thought and attention of the entire population until the struggle in Europe was ended in the closing days of 1918.

The Red Cross was already in the field. As a part of the national organization in cooperation with the Red Cross of other nations the women of Windsor had acted as a branch of the Hartford Chapter and had contributed much in the way of work and supplies to aid and comfort the sick and wounded on the battle fields of Europe. Now their efforts were redoubled. On March 6, 1917, the Windsor Branch of the Hartford Chapter elected the Rev. Roscoe Nelson, president, Mrs. Frederick W. Harriman, vice-president, Mrs. Fredus M. Case, secretary, and William P. Calder, treasurer. Mrs. Harriman, who had from the beginning been head of the group directing work and activities, was continued in this position thruout the duration of the war.

A survey of the town was made to learn who had sewing machines that could be made available for war work. From every corner of the town women volunteered for service. All were soon busy knitting socks, sweaters, wristlets, mufflers, and helmets, and cutting and making bandages, surgical dressings, pajamas, supplies for soldiers' kits and a great variety of articles for the soldiers comfort and welfare.

Another group of women led by Miss Louise Campbell, Mrs. Olivier J. Riley, and Mrs. Carlan H. Goslee, engaged in canning fruits and vegetables in order to aid in the conserva-

tion of food. The school children were enrolled in the Junior Red Cross and assisted in making compresses, knitting scarfs, and doing other war work as a part of the school program.

When war was declared Windsor took steps to organize a Home Guard in conformity with an act of the legislature passed to meet the existing emergency. This company known as the Windsor Company, Battalion C, Connecticut Home Guard, later renamed Company A, First Separate Battalion Infantry, First Military District, Connecticut, was organized and elected officers on April 13, 1917, and was formally mustered into service on the following May 3rd by Captain Roland F. Andrews.

The headquarters of the company were in the town hall at Windsor Center. Under the leadership of Captain Henry A. Grimm the company was soon receiving high commendation from the state department. Colonel Charles W. Burpee, after a tour of inspection, reported, "The Windsor Company . . . in three weeks from the time they got their rifles gave an almost faultless exhibition of the manual."

During the almost three years of its existence the company drilled regularly once each week, met with other companies for regimental maneuvers, and did guard duty at home and in Hartford. After several months Captain Grimm was made major in the state service and 1st Lieutenant George R. Reed became captain and was head of the company until it was mustered out January 15, 1920.

The muster roll of the company as of August 30, 1917, was as follows:

|  | Date of Enlistment |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Henry A. Grimm, Captain             | March 30, 1917     |
| 2. George R. Reed, 1st Lieutenant      | April 9            |
| 3. Alexander W. Norrie, 2nd Lieutenant | April 13           |
| 4. Winthrop R. Nelson, 1st Sergeant    | March 28           |
| 5. Clarence S. Voorhis, Sergeant       | April 4            |
| 6. Harry B. Williams, Sergeant         | March 28           |
| 7. Howard F. King, Sergeant            | April 5            |
| 8. William A. Reeves, Corporal         | April 4            |
| 9. George W. Mastaglio, Corporal       | April 4            |



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|     |                                |           |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 10. | William P. Mott, Corporal      | April 13  |
| 11. | Royal W. Thompson, Corporal    | April 13  |
| 12. | George J. Merwin, Corporal     | April 13  |
| 13. | Edward J. Kernan, Corporal     | April 9   |
| 14. | John J. O'Brien, Corporal      | April 20  |
| 15. | William B. Cornish, Corporal   | March 27  |
| 16. | George J. Bedortha, Private    | March 28  |
| 17. | Stanton F. Brown, Private      | August 17 |
| 18. | Herbert Brimmer, Private       | April, 7  |
| 19. | Amos Brooks, Private           | April 7   |
| 20. | Abraham Bruyn, Private         | March 29  |
| 21. | Francis A. Broderick, Private  | August 23 |
| 22. | Volney M. Burdick, Private     | April 13  |
| 23. | Louis D. Bushnell, Private     | August 17 |
| 24. | Benjamin S. Carter, Private    | March 28  |
| 25. | Fredus M. Case, Private        | March 30  |
| 26. | Herbert S. Case, Private       | April 4   |
| 27. | Salmon Clark, Private          | August 23 |
| 28. | Newton H. Cobb, Private        | April 20  |
| 29. | James Colletti, Private        | April 7   |
| 30. | John M. Cook, Private          | March 28  |
| 31. | Charles C. Cornelius, Private  | August 23 |
| 32. | George E. Crosby, Jr., Private | May 4     |
| 33. | Frank A. Cregle, Private       | March 29  |
| 34. | Burton W. Elliott, Private     | April 3   |
| 35. | Charles W. Elliott, Private    | March 29  |
| 36. | Thomas Garvan, Private         | March 29  |
| 37. | Edward J. Gilligan, Private    | March 28  |
| 38. | Ingalls W. Godfrey, Private    | March 24  |
| 39. | Henry Goodrow, Private         | March 28  |
| 40. | Carlan H. Goslee, Private      | April 13  |
| 41. | Howard L. Goslee, Private      | April 4   |
| 42. | Mason C. Green, Private        | August 17 |
| 43. | Adin D. Hatheway, Private      | April 13  |
| 44. | Albertus S. Hills, Private     | April 20  |
| 45. | Albert H. House, Private       | April 4   |
| 46. | John W. Laverty, Private       | April 13  |
| 47. | Albert T. Matthews, Private    | April 4   |
| 48. | John Murphy, Private           | March 26  |
| 49. | Osmond W. Olmsted, Private     | April 9   |
| 50. | Ervine F. Parker, Private      | April 13  |
| 51. | Albert Peichert, Private       | March 28  |
| 52. | Eleazer Pomeroy, Private       | March 28  |
| 53. | Henry J. Potter, Private       | April 27  |
| 54. | Peter J. Reitinger, Private    | April 13  |

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 55. Oliver J. Riley, Private     | April 13 |
| 56. Charles Sackett, Private     | March 13 |
| 57. Frederic A. Scouten, Private | April 4  |
| 58. Homer R. Turner, Private     | April 27 |
| 59. Joseph V. Wall, Private      | April 7  |
| 60. William F. Wall, Private     | April 4  |
| 61. Frederick Wilbraham, Private | April 7, |

George H. Willis enlisted March 24, 1918, and Stanley C. Foote about the same time.

## RESERVES

|                          | Date of Enlistment |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Strong H. Barber      | April 4, 1917      |
| 2. Benjamin D. Bailey    | March 23           |
| 3. Alfred H. Campbell    | April 20           |
| 4. Daniel Harrison       | March 28           |
| 5. Willard M. Lovell     | April 13           |
| 6. Karl N. Olmsted       | March 27           |
| 7. George F. Scarborough | April 13           |
| 8. George C. Savage      | April 5            |
| 9. Edson A. Welch        | March 26           |
| 10. Frederick H. Young   | April 13           |

On November 15, 1917, the first step was taken toward the formation of a war bureau, which should have the general oversight of all the war activities of the town. Under the leadership of John E. Luddy of the State Council of Defense and John B. Stewart, president of the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, the following men were invited to meet with them at the City Club in Hartford: Albert H. House, William P. Calder, Nathaniel Horton Batchelder, Fredus M. Case, Thomas J. Kearney, Charles E. Stinson, Dr. Clyde A. Clark, the Rev. Roscoe Nelson, the Rev. William Carr, the Rev. Frederick W. Harriman, Edward J. Kernan, Alfred W. Olds, George E. Crosby, Jr., Carlan H. Goslee, George F. Scarborough, Howard L. Goslee, Mason C. Green, James J. Dillon, John H. Garvan, James F. Norris, Fred W. Morgan, Julius E. Ransom, and Daniel Howard.

After listening to addresses on the necessity for action this group recommended that their chairman, John B. Stewart, should appoint a committee of seven to arrange for a meeting of the citizens of Windsor at the Windsor town hall on the evening of November 23, following.

At this meeting Windsor, true to her earliest traditions, assumed the role of pioneer and formed the first War Bureau in Connecticut with William P. Calder, treasurer of the Windsor Trust Company, elected to serve as its permanent chairman and Nathaniel Horton Batchelder elected as secretary. The others members of the Bureau were the first selectman, Fredus M. Case, the Rev. Roscoe Nelson, Miss Agnes G. McCormick, Mrs. Marion Blake Campbell, John B. Stewart, and Aibert H. House.

During the entire war this Bureau directed the local war activities, appointed committees to aid in its work, cooperated with and supported committees and directors appointed by the State Council for Defense, and helped in every way to carry out the program of the state and national governments. Before the work of the Bureau was ended Mr. Calder moved from Windsor to accept a position in the city of Bristol and Mr. Batchelder took over the chairmanship and carried on the work until the end of the war. He also had charge of the sale of Liberty Bonds and directed the program carried out for the conservation of food. Mr. Frank V. Mills during a part of the war period acted as fuel administrator and was charged with the duty of seeing that fuel was rigorously conserved and equitably distributed. Daniel Howard was supervisor of gardens cultivated by school pupils for the purpose of increasing agricultural products for home consumption.

War and war activities absorbed the thought and interest of the community. Rallies were held to increase the sale of Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps. Committees also canvassed the town for the same purpose. Thrift Stamps and Baby Bonds were on sale in many places including the bank and the schools. George E. Crosby, Jr., was appointed director of those in charge of the sale of Thrift Stamps thruout the town. The Thrift Stamps appealed especially to the children and small investors, being sold at twenty-five cents each and attached by the purchaser to Thrift Cards with places for sixteen stamps, which, when filled, were exchangeable, with the addition of a few cents, depending upon the date of exchange, for Baby Bonds with a maturity value of Five Dollars. These in

turn were attached to engraved folders known as "War-Savings Certificates," each certificate containing twenty places, and, when filled, redeemable on January 1, 1923, for One Hundred Dollars.

No accurate record of the amount of Windsor's investment in these certificates and in Liberty Bonds is available, but some indication of the support given to this enterprise may be seen when we examine a few sample "frolics" or "drives," such as were features of the campaign carried on thruout the period of the war.

For the first issue of Liberty Bonds Windsor subscribed \$69,000; for the second issue, \$123,000; Windsor's quota of \$45,000 for the third loan was soon over subscribed. A Thrift Stamp frolic at the Poquonock town hall held on March 20, 1918, resulted in the sale of over One Thousand Dollars' worth of stamps and Miss Helen DuBon was elected Thrift Stamp queen for her special work.

A frolic held in the town hall at Windsor Center on March 27, 1918, brought \$3,318.75 from the sale of stamps and Miss Florence Grimshaw was crowned queen of the evening. The Delta Alpha Club composed of young ladies of the community sold stamps amounting to \$6,235 before the frolic. A report to the State Council of Defense made seven months later in October showed that Windsor's per capita sales of stamps was \$7.19. During the fall term the pupils in the public schools purchased stamps to the amount of \$2,910.25. On May 20, 1918, the Red Cross subscriptions for war work totaled \$10,441. Later subscriptions and the final sale of Victory Bonds are not included.

War posters everywhere exhorted everyone to economize, save food and fuel, and lend to their government. Plays, pageants, and poems were written for the rallies, bees, and frolics. Speakers, singers, motion pictures, prizes, music and printed propaganda kept everybody at a high pitch of excitement and enthusiasm. The following limericks are samples from the program of a Thrift Stamp Bee held in the Windsor town hall on the evening of January 16, 1918.

### World War Limericks

---

Buy, buy a Baby Bond.  
Brother's gone to war, far, far beyond the sea.  
I must work and save for him.  
I must help at home,  
Till victory brings him back to me.

Little drops of water, little grains of sand  
Make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land.  
Little bits of Thrift Stamps, just a quarter each,  
Make a good beginning a Baby Bond to reach.

Let us then be up and doing,  
Spending quarters left and right.  
We're not slackers, let us prove it  
Buying Thrift Stamps here tonight.

Hey Diddle-Diddle, the Kaiser won't fiddle  
When he hears of our Thrift Stamp boom;  
Our soldiers will laugh;  
'Twill break them in half  
And the Huns will be covered with gloom.

Come, little Thrift Stamp, live with me;  
You'll take the place of sugar and tea;  
You will be meat and wheat and tea;  
Come, little Thrift Stamp, live with me.

Such was the character of the war efforts made to maintain morale at home and to give support to the sons and brothers "over there," nor was there any relaxation of these efforts until the news came that the fighting was at an end and the armistice had been proclaimed. In the early morning of November 11, 1918, the news spread over the town that the long awaited day had come. Men abandoned their work, the children did not go to school, and all both old and young spent the day in joyous celebration.

### The Welcome Home

Now the question was on every lip, When will the boys come home? A whole long year had to pass before the last of them returned. Then the citizens of the town united to give them a rousing welcome. Money was appropriated for a dinner and a celebration. Committees were appointed and the following invitation was sent to every Windsor soldier:

To Those Who Went From Windsor Into the Nation's Service  
in the World War:—

The entire town of Windsor welcomes you home from your sacrifice and service in your country's cause. All her citizens greet you with open arms. You offered everything for them in their hour of need and now they offer you their tribute of unstinted praise and their boundless gratitude. They desire the honor of participating in a public demonstration in recognition of the magnitude and worth of your achievements and the extent and permanency of their own debt of obligation.

To carry out their purpose an appropriate program has been planned for Saturday, November fifteenth, nineteen hundred nineteen.

You are most cordially invited to be present in uniform and to occupy the place of honor in the parade that is to be a prominent feature of the celebration. The local Red Cross organization will find it a pleasure and deem it an honor to have you as their guests at the table which they will spread for your refreshment. A special committee will provide for your further entertainment. Numerous town organizations will participate with you in the parade and all Windsor will be your host for the day.

The place of assembling for the parade will be on the green at Windsor Center, and the hour will be one thirty P. M.

A more detailed program will be announced before the day of the celebration. A reply is requested on the enclosed card.

GEORGE R. REED,  
DANIEL HOWARD,  
AGNES G. McCORMICK,  
Invitation Committee.

Windsor, Connecticut, November 8, 1919.

The day of the celebration was one never to be forgotten by those who were present to witness the parade at Windsor Center and the program that followed ending in a banquet at the Windsor Casino with addresses by invited guests and songs and stories by the soldiers themselves.

Then back they went to their homes and their friends, back again to civil life, back to the varied vocations and duties of peace.

Ten days before this celebration a group of these ex-service men had signed an application for a charter to form a post of the American Legion at Windsor. In the Windsor town hall on November 11, 1919, Gray-Dickinson Post No. 59 was organized with fifty-eight ex-service men in attendance. The name of the Post was taken in honor of two comrades both of whom had lost their lives in France. Howard B. Gray had enlisted November 20, 1916, and served in Company K First Infantry Connecticut National Guard. He was sent to Mexico. Later his company became a part of the 102nd Infantry serving in France. He was wounded at Chateau Thierry and died of his wounds July 21, 1918. Seth H. Dickinson also went to Mexico before being sent to France. He was a member of Headquarters Company in the 102nd Infantry and had been twice promoted for merit in the early months of 1918. He served at Seicheprey, Chateau-Thierry, and San Mihiel and was killed in action September 26, 1918, during the Marne-Argonne drive.

At the first meeting of the Post William M. Evans was elected Commander; Charles D. Perry, Vice-Commander; Raymond D. Hayes, Adjutant; Robert C. Gray, Treasurer.

The Post has been one of the most active in the state both in looking after the welfare of the World War veterans and in civic enterprises. It now has a membership of 179. In 1926 it bought the house at No. 20 Maple Avenue, which has been made into a permanent home and headquarters. The house contains an assembly room seating about one hundred persons, an office, a club room, a kitchen, headquarters for the town's visiting nurse furnished to the community without charge for rent, and a four port fifty foot rifle range in the basement.

The Post sponsors three regular troops of Boy Scouts, the Seth Harding troop of Sea Scouts, and the Wilson Pack of Cub Scouts.

The present officers (1935) are:

Commander, George N. Greene; 1st Vice-Commander, Merrill E. Bill; 2nd Vice-Commander, Ralph Peters; Adjutant, Mortimer L. J. Higgins; Treasurer, Harmon T. Barber; Sergeant-at-Arms, Albert Rossing; Chaplain, Charles E. Schaefer; Historian, Harold W. Ellingwood.

The revival of the Purple Heart Badge of Merit, which was described in our sketch of Daniel Bissell, disclosed many deeds of outstanding heroism performed by men of this Post in the World War. The following are names of those who have received the Badge of Merit because of wounds received in heroic action. Those who received the Badge of the Purple Heart with the Oak Leaf Cluster, were wounded or gassed in more than one battle: Charles D. Perry, Robert A. Neher, William M. Evans, Walter M. Wilkialis, Dominick Parlapiano, Arthur J. Evans, Merrill E. Bill, Joseph F. Bushnell (with the Oak Leaf Cluster), John A. Benson, George H. Berlin, Charles E. Stack, William C. Speakman, Philip Mucha, Charles Baranowsky (with the Oak Leaf Cluster), Joseph Mangene, Glover Campbell, Philip Letzuk (with the Oak Leaf Cluster).

The Post is also justly proud of the many citations received for the eminent character of its activities as an organization. The Earle F. Richards Cup, which is awarded annually to that Post which gives the largest service and help to Connecticut's hospitalized veterans, was won by Windsor No. 59 in 1930, 1932, 1933, and 1934. The Paige A. Sexton Cup, awarded each year to that Post of the Department of Connecticut that leads in the Boy Scout program, was also won by this same Windsor Post in 1933 and again in 1934. Many other citations for meritorious service are highly prized and preserved among the Post's records.

On July 5, 1920, a bronze tablet carrying the names of the 243 men who went into the World War from Windsor was unveiled at Windsor Center. This tablet was procured with the proceeds of subscriptions made by citizens of the town. It



was intended that it should be placed on a fitting pedestal or boulder, but as the funds proved inadequate at that time it was placed temporarily on the south wall of the town hall, where it still remains awaiting the day when the means shall be made available to give it a permanent and fitting setting. It reads:

1917   ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF WINDSOR   1919  
CONNECTICUT IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO WENT  
FROM THIS TOWNSHIP TO FIGHT IN THE WORLD  
WAR FOR HUMANITY AND JUSTICE.

Arthur W. Abbott  
George H. Adams  
Joseph Adonitis  
Alice V. Alford  
Stanley Austin  
Arthur R. Babcock  
C. Raymond Babcock  
Frank D. Babcock  
Henry P. Babcock  
Charles D. Baldwin  
Clifford V. Barber  
Kenneth W. Barber  
Raymond W. Barber  
William J. Barber  
Walter F. Barcomb  
Howard W. Barrs  
Albert W. Becker  
Carl J. Becker  
William A. Becker  
Arthur M. Beebe  
Wilfred J. Bennett  
Harold P. Bill  
Merrill E. Bill  
Roswell H. Bill  
Michael Binkoski  
Alfred P. Bond  
Raymond A. Bond  
Anthony Bontanas  
Joseph Brazdekis  
Frank Brewer  
Herbert S. Brimer  
Francis A. Broderick  
Amos Brooks  
Hubbell F. Brown  
George DeW. Burnham  
John W. Bushnell  
Joseph H. Bushnell  
Louis D. Bushnell  
John J. Butler  
Thomas C. Butler  
Annie M. Callender  
Charles J. Carroll

William A. Carroll  
James W. Case  
Nelson J. Caye  
Percy E. Caye  
John F. Chivinsky  
Harold J. Christensen  
Raymond B. Clark  
Ernest S. Clarke, Jr.  
Herbert E. Clay  
James Colletti  
Charles A. Connolly  
Kenneth B. Cowan  
Thomas L. Cowan  
Archie J. Cranouski  
Frank A. Cregle  
Percy R. Daniels  
Dan Diano  
Albert A. Drieu  
Lucy G. Drieu  
Frank L. Duncan  
Lester H. Easton  
Noel B. Easton  
Sanford B. Edwards  
Martin Egelevich  
Elmer L. Elliott  
Arthur J. Evans  
Joseph F. Evans  
William M. Evans  
John M. Fales  
Irving D. Fallon  
James T. Farnan  
Marion S. Finkler  
William H. Flint  
John B. Fouret  
Samuel S. Foxwell  
Raymond L. Garvan  
James H. Geary  
Harry L. Gilligan  
James T. Gilligan  
John W. Gilligan  
Henry J. Goodrow  
Leonard B. Goslee

Arnold W. Granger  
 Robert C. Gray  
 John E. Grimshaw  
 Norman R. Grimshaw  
 Clara R. Griswold  
 J. Randolph Griswold  
 Francisco Guardiano  
 Oscar Hallgren  
 Howard P. Halsey  
 Jeffrey J. Hammel  
 Wilfred J. Hammel  
 C. Jarvis Harriman  
 Dorothy Hayden  
 Oliver M. Hayden  
 William J. Hayden  
 Raymond D. Hayes  
 Duncan W. Hebebrand  
 Russell E. Herney  
 William Hepburn  
 Frederick F. Herbick  
 T. Phelps Hollister  
 Raymond J. Hoskins  
 Henry L. Hubbard  
 Ralph S. Hudson  
 Charles A. Huntington, Jr.  
 George E. Jackson  
 Harrison M. Jackson  
 Leroy T. Jackson  
 Axel Jensen  
 James B. Johnstone  
 Charles H. Jorden  
 Ludlow H. Kaeser  
 Andrew Kalchert  
 George M. Kayser  
 Helen A. Kennedy  
 Russell L. Kimberley  
 Marshall O. Lanphear  
 Antony J. Lapinski  
 John F. Laverty  
 Thomas J. Lawless  
 Arthur C. Lewis  
 Samuel Linsky  
 Adelor L. Livernois  
 Robert J. Lloyd  
 Harold F. Loomer  
 Henry S. Loomis  
 Theodore R. Loomis  
 Jarvis B. Lovell  
 Elmer G. Lyman  
 Russell E. Lyman  
 Carl A. Malmstrom  
 James T. Malone  
 John H. Maloy  
 Harry W. Manning  
 Lionel V. Marks  
 George R. Martin  
 Arthur N. Matthews

C. Nancy Maude  
 Miriam M. Maude  
 William J. Maxwell  
 Michael T. McCarthy  
 Dana W. Medling  
 Paul W. Merrill  
 Alfred W. Merritt  
 Samuel T. Metcalfe  
 John F. Moore  
 Idris Morgan  
 George L. Mulanauskus  
 William L. Mullaley  
 Henry E. Murray  
 Joseph Mushrim  
 Robert Neher  
 Theodore F. Neuhaus  
 James A. Nichols  
 George E. Niles  
 Henry B. Niles  
 Julius F. Nobaris  
 John E. Nolan  
 John J. Nolan  
 Katherine E. Nugent  
 George F. O'Brien  
 John C. O'Brien  
 Joseph D. Oldroyd  
 Robert L. Orr  
 Harry G. Osborne  
 Stanley Ostrich  
 Howard H. Paine  
 Alfred J. Parenteau  
 Donald E. Parker  
 Hudson C. Pelton  
 Charles D. Perry  
 William L. Perry  
 Charles R. Peterson  
 F. Victor Peterson  
 Dexter M. Phelon  
 Francis W. Piechowski  
 John L. Porcheron  
 William B. Purnell  
 George A. Ramsdell  
 Mortimer V. Rand  
 Russell H. Rand  
 J. Ford Ransom  
 Rollin M. Ransom  
 Ray V. Raymond  
 Philip Remington  
 Hollis Reynolds  
 Ray L. Rivers  
 Charles L. Rollet  
 John W. Rosen  
 Stanli Sabonis  
 James F. Sands  
 Walter M. Saport  
 Charles Schaefer  
 Christopher Schaefer

Elbert A. Searle  
 Charles E. Sellers  
 Charles H. Sharp  
 James W. Shepard  
 Albert H. Sipple  
 Allison L. Smith  
 Herbert L. Smith  
 Edwin R. Snelgrove  
 Frank G. Snelgrove  
 Elmer H. Steele  
 Kenneth W. Stevens  
 Frederick W. Stone  
 Herbert W. Strong  
 Richard M. Summercorn  
 William H. Swan  
 Paul N. Taylor  
 Arthur W. Tracy  
 George R. Tracy  
 Homer R. Turner  
 Walter A. Turning  
 William T. Tustin  
 Biagio Uricchio  
 Herbert Vail

Charles Van Allen, Jr.  
 Sardy Vendetta  
 Ralph R. Vernon  
 Ernest F. Wagner  
 Joseph E. Wagner  
 William F. Wall  
 Harry A. Warmsley  
 Clarence E. Warner  
 Melville L. Waterhouse  
 Frank Weber  
 John R. Welch  
 Louis H. Welch  
 Jennings T. Welles  
 H. Tudor White  
 Hazel J. Wilbraham  
 Russell A. Wilcox  
 George H. Williams, Jr.  
 Nelson M. Williams  
 Walter L. Williams  
 Charles Wixson  
 George L. Wolf  
 Konstant Yuskevich

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**IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES  
 TO THIS GREAT CAUSE**

Nicholas Antink  
 H. Carleton Chidsey  
 Stanley Colody  
 William B. Cornish  
 Seth H. Dickinson  
 Lewis R. Elkey

Howard B. Gray  
 Zachary Kravoy  
 Earle H. Paine  
 Reise M. Pendleton  
 Aleck Stankewicz  
 Dominick Strikitis

**The American Legion Auxiliary**

On December 14, 1925, the first steps were taken towards organizing an Auxiliary to Gray-Dickinson Post No. 59, American Legion. The first regular meeting was held at the Legion Home one month later, January 14, 1926, at which time the following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. Marjorie Campbell; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Ruth Christensen; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Edna Howes; Secretary, Miss Florence Grimshaw; Treasurer, Miss Alice Kennedy; Sergeant-at-Arms, Miss Muriel Snelgrove; Chaplain, Mrs. Belle Brown; Historian, Mrs. Berthe Wagner.

There were 46 Charter Members, and the Unit's Charter was signed and delivered March 20, 1926.

The present officers, installed September 27, 1934, are as follows:

President, Mrs. Eleanor Higgins; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Mary P. Strother; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Irene Greene; Secretary, Mrs. Nellie Bennett; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Doris Davis; Treasurer, Mrs. Marion Bill; Sergeant-at-Arms, Mrs. Ethel Evans; Chaplain, Mrs. Irene Easton; Historian, Mrs. Grace Hubbard.

The membership for the year ending December 31, 1934, was 106. The aims and purposes of the organization are best summed up in the Preamble to its Constitution, which reads as follows:

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent. Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association during the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

The Auxiliary has taken its place in the community as an organization devoted to service. The first year of its existence, the Unit began the task of creating public demand for a suitable memorial to Windsor's war dead, and also of soliciting funds for this purpose. This project had the co-operation and assistance of almost every other organization in town, as well as that of countless patriotic individuals, but the Auxiliary took the leading part from the time the plan was conceived until the final dedication of the handsome bronze eagle on the Green.

The second major project in which this Unit took an active part consisted in obtaining subscriptions with which to organize the Windsor Public Health Nursing association.

The Legion sponsored this movement, but the Auxiliary did a large part of the house-to-house canvassing of the entire town.

Another important service rendered by this organization has been the centralization and distribution of special Christmas relief to the needy. Before the town maintained a paid social worker, there were many churches, clubs, and individuals who wished to make donations but did not know how to avoid working at cross-purposes. The Auxiliary has been acting as a central agency for this work for eight years. At Christmas, 1934, forty families were generously remembered.

In March, 1934, the Auxiliary inaugurated an intensive 10-day drive to secure used but still usable, books for the Windsor Public Library and its branches, which received about 230 volumes as a result of this project.

One year later, March 24, 1935, the Unit was awarded a National Citation of Merit for its outstanding accomplishments in all types of Auxiliary activities during the preceding year. This was one of only three such Citations awarded in the entire Eastern Division of the United States.

### **Sons of the American Legion**

To extend the principles for which the American Legion stands a meeting was held at the Legion Headquarters on the evening of April 2, 1935, at which sixteen boys signed an application for a charter for a Windsor Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion, and appointed Frank E. Watts, Jr., temporary chairman, to carry on the work of the organization until a permanent organization should be effected. The following are the names of the boys who signed the application:

Frank E. Watts, Jr., Wilfred C. Bennett, Robert Fuller, Gardner McCabe, Michael E. Peters, Michael R. Peters, Sylvester J. Peters, Norman Gaudet, Samuel S. Hawley, Philip L. Hawley, George N. Greene, Jr., Arnold Leroy Trenn, Elton Howard Trenn, Mortimer J. Higgins, R. Preston Higgins and Samuel S. Higgins.

On May 3, 1935, officers were chosen for this newly-organized squadron, Sons of the American Legion, at the Legion Headquarters. The officers are: Captain, Michael R.

Peters; First Lieutenant, Arnold L. Trenn; Second Lieutenant, Robert Fuller; Chaplain, Gardner McCabe; Finance Officer, Sylvester J. Peters; Adjutant, Frank E. Watts, Jr.; Historian, Gilbert Berry; Sergeant-at-Arms, George N. Green, Jr.

### **The Veterans of Foreign Wars**

The Windsor sent a host of her sons to serve in all our country's wars, it was not until April 11, 1935, that a Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized in this town. On that date a Post was formed in the club rooms of the Hartford Post on Windsor avenue near the city line. Its membership is drawn mainly from those who served in the Spanish American War in 1898, from those who served in Mexico preceding our entrance into the World War, and from those who saw actual service on foreign soil during the World War.

The Post is named the Berry-Lawson Post No 3272 in honor of Gilbert Silas Berry and John McCormick Lawson, two deceased veterans of the World War, who served in France. Thru the generosity of the Hartford Post the Windsor Post enjoys the privilege of sharing in the use of their club room and headquarters.

The officers chosen at the first election of the Post are: Commander, Douglas F. Hopkins; Senior Vice-Commander, John Jesse Colpitts; Junior Vice-Commander, George Frederick Gordon; Officer of the Day, John Francis Zackaro; Quartermaster, Walter V. Howes; Chaplain, Walter Howard Tirrell; Adjutant, Vine R. Parmelee.

The membership on May 1, 1935, was 52.

### **Two Town Halls**

Before 1877 it was the custom to hold town meetings in the different meeting houses, sometimes at Windsor Center and sometimes at Poquonock. Elm Grove Hall was also used for the same purpose.

On November 3, 1877, at a town meeting held in the basement of the Methodist Church at Windsor Center, it was voted to build a Town Hall at Windsor Center at a cost of Seven

Thousand Dollars and another at Poquonock at a cost of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars.

September 3, 1878, another town meeting added Three Hundred Dollars to the appropriation for the building at Windsor Center. November 6, 1878, One Thousand Dollars was appropriated to finish and furnish the Town Hall and fence the lot on which it stood. The building was evidently nearly completed for a town meeting had already been held in it during the previous month of October.

A clock was placed in the tower of the new hall and on October 4, 1880, a town meeting voted, "Whereas Mrs. Abby Loomis Hayden has presented to this town a valuable town clock and bell, therefore, Resolved that we cheerfully accept the gift and hereby tender our hearty and sincere thanks as a token of our appreciation."

The work at Poquonock had lagged for three years. Then on December 11, 1880, it was voted that a committee be appointed to build the hall on land to be purchased of James M. Brown. The committee appointed to perform this duty was William L. Bidwell, Richard D. Case and Joseph C. Hungerford.

An act of the legislature approved April 8, 1881, divided the town of Windsor into two voting districts, the first to consist of school districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and the second to embrace school districts 7, 8, 9, and 10. This stimulated activity and the building plans were carried forward with renewed vigor.

On July 2, 1882, a town meeting added Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars to the appropriation. On May 12, 1883, a town meeting was held in the building now nearly completed at which authority was given to settle unpaid bills amounting to \$888.98 and the building committee were instructed to furnish the new building at a cost not to exceed \$350.00.

After the completion of these Town Halls two sets of election officials directed the casting of ballots at all elections in the two voting districts. Town meetings for the transaction of the town's business alternated, being held one year at Wind-

sor Center and the following year at Poquonock, until March, 1920, when it was voted, "That in the future the Town Hall at Poquonock be discontinued for the use of town meetings and caucuses, said town meetings and caucuses to be held in the Town Hall at Windsor."

On March 19, 1931, an act of the legislature was approved making three voting districts in Windsor. The new third district comprises the south part of the old first district from the Hartford line north to an east and west line passing thru a point one hundred and fifty feet north of the intersection of Windsor Avenue with the north line of Seymour Street.

Since that date elections have been conducted in the two Town Halls and the Auditorium of the Roger Ludlow School. Town meetings as before this time are held only in the Town Hall at Windsor Center.

### **Town Plan Commission**

Acting under the authority conferred by a special act of the legislature approved April 3, 1917, a town meeting was held on March 4, 1918, to elect three commissioners, who acting with the three selectmen of the town, should form a board of town plan commissioners whose duty should consist in making surveys and maps of the town showing locations for public buildings, highways, streets, parkways, and building and veranda lines.

According to this plan any owner of land may show on maps that he has made his proposed highways, streets, and building lines, which the commissioners may approve or reject.

Persons desiring to erect buildings must get a permit from the commissioners and make their buildings conform to the requirements of the commission.

Fred H. Young, Thomas F. Connor, and Joseph B. Spencer were elected to serve for the first term of this commission. The present members in addition to the selectmen are Ernest S. Clark, Jr., Homer R. Turner and Harry G. Smith.



### **The Board of Finance**

In 1919 Windsor decided to abandon the long used method by which the town had made up its list of appropriations to meet the financial obligations and expenses of the town, and adopted the modern budget system with a board of finance authorized to hear and pass judgment upon all applications for appropriations of money before they can be presented to the town meeting for acceptance or rejection by the voters. The board of finance consists of six members two of whom are elected each year to hold office for a period of three years. (Special terms were provided for the members first elected.)

The first board elected on October 6, 1919, was as follows: Elliot H. Andrus and Edward J. Kernan, elected for three years; Oliver J. Thrall and John E. Luddy, elected for two years; Charles O. Clark and Albert H. House elected for one year. This board assumed its duties in 1920. The present members are John B. Stewart, Leland P. Wilson, Louis L. Rand, Charles A. Huntington, Jr., Edward J. Kernan, and James J. Dillon.

### **The Town Court of Windsor**

The local system of administering justice that began in 1639, when the town was given authority by the General Court "to choose out 3, 5, or 7 of their cheefe Inhabitants" (selectmen), who should have power "to heare, end, and determine all controversies, eyther trespasses or debts not exceeding 40 shillings, provided both partyes live in the same Towne," and that later developed into the traditional New England justice's court came to an end in Windsor on May 1, 1929.

On that date a special act of the legislature became effective creating "The Town Court of Windsor," "which shall have jurisdiction of all crimes and misdemeanors committed within said town, and of all violations of by-laws and regulations of said town, punishable by a fine not exceeding Two Hundred Dollars, or by imprisonment in a common jail or workhouse for a term not exceeding six months." Police court jurisdiction and the general functions of town courts also go to this court. The general assembly appoints the judge and a deputy judge

for a period of two years. The judge appoints a prosecuting attorney who has the powers and authority of a grand juror.

Vine R. Parmelee has served as judge since the organization of the new system. Alfred W. Olds was the first deputy judge, Carlan H. Goslee was appointed the first prosecutor and Irving L. Carrier, the first clerk. The present (May 1, 1935) deputy judge is Dr. Clyde A. Clark. Charles E. Mahoney is prosecuting attorney and Russell H. Pellington is clerk.

In connection with the work of the town court the services of the town's faithful constables deserves more than passing notice. Respect for law and order has caused the constable to be held in high esteem from the earliest days. The first constable mentioned in the records of the Connecticut colony was Henry Wolcott of Dorchester (Windsor), one of the town's most respected citizens. Men fearless in the discharge of difficult and sometimes dangerous duties have been demanded. Today (1935) a name known to practically every resident of the town young or old is that of Maurice Kennedy, the officer who is constantly engaged in the work of a constable and a detective, whose work takes him into all parts of the state and often into other states. Constable Kennedy is serving his twenty-sixth year for the town of Windsor and has recently been appointed Deputy Sheriff for Hartford County.

Windsor's seven constables for the current year are: Maurice Kennedy, John Christensen, John H. Sipple, Fred C. Wilbraham, Fred W. Munsell, Fred Trocchi, Arthur E. Henrechson.

### **The Metropolitan District**

May 13, 1929, a charter was granted by the legislature to the city of Hartford and adjoining towns that might wish to unite with the city to form a metropolitan district. On October 7, 1929, Windsor by a vote of 732 "yes" to 189 "no" became a part of this district. As now constituted the district consists of Hartford and the towns of Windsor, Wethersfield, Newington, and Bloomfield. New Britain also is affiliated with the district to the extent of receiving its water supply from the

metropolitan system and having a representative who meets with the district commissioners and has a vote on matters connected with the management of the water supply and distribution.

The district has charge of the construction and maintenance of sewers within its territory; controls the streams and water courses; manages the affairs of the water system and the transmission of water by pipes or otherwise; and lays out, constructs, and maintains highways that enter or pass thru more than one of the towns, if they are turned over to the district by the towns.

The affairs of the district are administered by a board of twenty commissioners appointed by the governor of the state. Windsor's representatives on the commission are Clayton P. Chamberlin, John B. Stewart, and Walter S. Hastings. The commissioners appoint a board for regional planning and a board of finance. On the latter board Windsor has two representatives, Leland P. Wilson and John B. Stewart.

### **Zoning and Building Regulations**

By a special act of the legislature passed in 1931 Windsor was authorized to call a special town meeting for the purpose of creating a zoning commission consisting of five members with authority to divide the town into districts and to adopt regulations concerning the size, height, type, and general character of the buildings to be erected in these districts and the alteration and repair of these buildings. The commission should also have authority to regulate and restrict the location of trades and industries in all the districts.

The election for the first commissioners was held June 1, 1931, and Leland P. Wilson was elected to serve for one year; Oliver J. Thrall, to serve for two years; James J. Dillon, to serve for three years; Theodore F. Neuhaus, to serve for four years; and Homer R. Turner, to serve for five years. The members whose terms have expired have thus far been reelected for five years.

A board of appeals is provided for those who are dissatisfied with the rulings and decisions of the commissioners. This

board consists of Robert W. Clark, Charles F. Taylor, Raymond W. Smith, Donald R. Griswold, and Howard C. Thrall.

### List of Town Clerks

As the town clerk is one of the most important and responsible of the town officials it is gratifying to note that Windsor has been especially fortunate in the character and ability of the men who have served the town in this capacity. The list of clerks since the adoption of the Fundamental Orders includes:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Dr. Bray Rossiter.....                                       | 1639-1652 |
| Matthew Grant.....   | 1652-1682 |
| Henry Wolcott.....   | 1682-1703 |
| John Moore.....  | 1703-1717 |
| Timothy Loomis.....  | 1717-1739 |
| Henry Allyn.....   | 1740-1803 |
| Elisha N. Sil.....   | 1803-1831 |
| James Newberry.....  | 1831-1832 |
| Anson Loomis.....  | 1832-1836 |
| William Howard.....  | 1836-1846 |
| Sidney Bower.....  | 1846-1855 |
| (1854-1855—Lemuel A. Welch served as<br>Town Clerk Pro Tem.) |           |
| Horace Bower.....  | 1855-1877 |
| John B. Woodford.....  | 1877-1885 |
| Samuel E. Phelps.....  | 1885-1892 |
| Isaac W. Hakes, Jr.,.....                                    | 1892-1894 |
| Henry A. Huntington.....                                     | 1894-1903 |
| Samuel E. Phelps.....  | 1903-1905 |
| George R. Maude.....   | 1905-1919 |
| Paul N. Taylor.....  | 1919-1921 |
| Leslie H. Hayes.....   | 1921—     |

(The dates given are in most cases the dates of election. The term of actual duties begins January 1 following the date of election.)

### The Highway Department

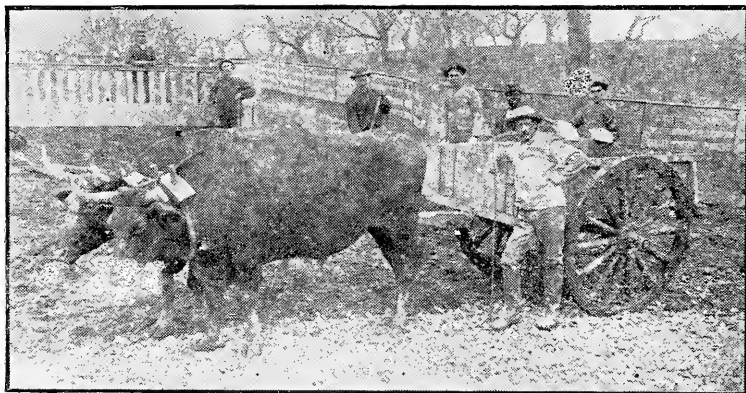
In the Town Clerk's office there is a little book entitled *A Record of Town Wayes in Windsor*. It contains a copy made by Timothy Loomis, Register, of early original records made by Matthew Grant in 1654 of the highways then existing in Windsor.

One of these highways starts from "the south side of the Rivulet against the ferry from the place where they pass over with horse and cart when the River is loo" . . . "all a Long by the River to the corner at the mouth of the Mill Brook" . . . then between the lots owned by several men to the mill . . . then apparently thru East Street and "along the swamp" thru several wood lots whose owners had given a written right of way, and across the Farmington to Poquonock and beyond.

Another "waye" went south between the property of this man on the east or north and that man on the south or west to Hartford Bounds. Other "wayes" ran in other directions over courses designated by naming the men who owned the land on each side. These public roads were specified in some cases as two rods wide, in others, three rods wide. In sections where the same man owned on both sides of the highway it was to go "in the place where it is now trod out, or neer about as shall be most Convenient."

These roads were kept open and unobstructed in order that horses and oxen could haul carts over them but little was done to improve them. People who simply wished to travel either walked or rode their saddle horses. After the Revolutionary War there came gradual improvement in the highways and with the advent of carriages and buggies still more labor was expended upon them, but modern roads as we know them today waited till the automobile had made them necessary.

Highway surveyors in charge of districts gave place to the Selectmen who cared for the roads and streets until 1924. Compared with surrounding towns the highways of Windsor had a good reputation. But the time came when scientific road building and care were needed to meet the demands of modern traffic.



THE OLD WAY OF "WORKING ON THE ROAD"

The late Judge D. Ellsworth Phelps stands in his yard watching the work in front of his home

In 1924 after much study the town decided to place the management of its highways and bridges under the control of one man with full authority to expend the appropriations for the highway department. Claude A. Magill, an experienced engineer and public works manager, was made Superintendent of Highways and Bridges and entered upon his duties November 4, 1924. In taking this step as in many others during her history Windsor was among the pioneers and today Windsor stands almost alone among Connecticut towns in having a highway department with full responsibility for the care of its highways and bridges.

Four of the main highways within the town have passed into the hands of the state and are removed from town management. These roads are:

1. From Hartford thru Windsor to Windsor Locks, via Windsor Avenue and Palisado Avenue.
2. From Windsor via Poquonock Avenue to Poquonock and then to Windsor Locks—except the bridge at Poquonock and fifty feet of the approaching highway to the south and one hundred feet of highway to the north, which remain under town control.
3. Bloomfield Avenue from the High School to the Bloomfield line.

4. Park Avenue from Sage Park Road to the Bloomfield line. These roads comprise a total of about seventeen miles.

The remaining eighty-three miles of Windsor highways are under town control and cared for by the Superintendent of Highways and Bridges. Of these forty-seven miles have been improved and compare favorably with the best in the state while the rest are superior to most roads not classified as "improved."

To carry on this work the highway department employs a force of twelve to fifteen men and owns and uses as part of its equipment eight dump trucks, an express truck, a tractor, a motor grader, a concrete mixer, a roller, and six snow plows.

At the department headquarters on East Street a tobacco shed has been transformed into a shelter and garage; a concrete garage includes a shop where the painting and repair work is done; and a steel garage houses the rest of the equipment.

New streets are added from time to time as required by new developments, but they must be laid out according to the requirements of the Town Plan Commission and their lines and grades established, after which they must be approved and recommended by this Commission and the Superintendent of Highways and Bridges before they can be presented to a town meeting for acceptance.

### **The Welfare Department**

From the earliest days the community has always fully recognized its obligation to take care of the poor and unfortunate, but the necessity for a welfare department was long delayed. At first almost all the effort was directed to prevention rather than cure. No one was permitted to enter the town and settle as an inhabitant unless he met the approval of those already there, and great pains were taken to see that newcomers were persons of good character and capable of supporting themselves. Actual need, however, on the part of inhabitants was met by prompt relief from the town or the church, which at first was practically identical with the town.

In the course of time the care of the poor became one of the duties of the selectmen. They had authority to take the children of the poor and bind them out by indenture to responsible persons who should act as foster parents until they became old enough to support themselves.

Property owners who were regarded as incompetent to manage their own affairs were taken under the guardianship of the town fathers in accordance with the method shown in the following document, one of many found among the early records. We give it in full without change except the substitution of Doe and Roe for the actual names.

We the Subscribers Selectmen & overseers of the Poor of the Town of Windsor having diligently and carefully inspected into the Circumstances and affairs of the Widow Naomi Doe, Ephraim Roe, & Mary Roe all of said Windsor and find that by Reason of inability & misjudgment in the management of their affairs they are likely soon to be reduced to poverty & want we do therefore appoint Ozias Lomiss of said Windsor to oversee advise & direct them the said Naomi Doe, Ephraim Roe, & Mary Roe in the management of their affairs until it shall be otherwise ordered by the Select Men of the Town of Windsor. Dated Windsor July 6th, A D 1795

|                  |   |                      |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| Henry Allyn      | } | Selectmen<br>Windsor |
| Hezekiah Latimer |   |                      |
| Elihu Griswold   |   |                      |
| Josiah Bysell    |   |                      |

During the nineteenth century temporary aid was given by selectmen's orders on the town treasurer to supply food, clothing, medicine, and funeral expenses. Those requiring extended or permanent support were "boarded out" at the expense of the town.

It was felt by many that this method was unsatisfactory and Mr. H. Sidney Hayden, one of the town's generous benefactors, purchased a farm on East Street known as the Hiram Buckland estate and on September 22, 1887, deeded it to the town for a nominal consideration as a home for the town's poor "only reserving to himself the right to approve in writing



the husband and wife placed in charge of the Home for the care of the Poor.”



THE TOWN FARM

The town farm was operated by a manager and matron until 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert F. Upham being the last to occupy those positions. Since their retirement the home has been rented and the tenant has boarded the few who are supported at town expense. Mrs. Selina E. Thompson is the present tenant and matron of the home.

Due to the disastrous financial depression, which began in 1929, a new agency for administering relief had to be created in 1933. On October 18 of that year Mrs. Ethel K. Stowe was engaged by the town as a social worker in charge of the varied forms of relief work necessitated by the emergency conditions. She employed as her secretary Miss Lillian McElwain, and in April, 1935, Miss Elna Duerell was added to her staff as an investigator. The gravity of the local situation is shown by the fact that in the month of January, 1935, 132 families and 668 individuals were on the relief rolls.

### The Department of Health

Under the provisions of an act of the legislature passed in 1893 Dr. Newton S. Bell was appointed Health Officer for Windsor and held this position until his death in 1910. On March 26 of that year Dr. Howard F. King was appointed his successor and in turn carried on the work of the health department until his death September 19, 1925. Dr. King was

succeeded by Dr. Lester F. Turney, who is still serving as Health Officer.



LESTER F. TURNEY, M. D.

In 1922 and 1923 the work of the department was augmented by the employment of a school nurse, the expense being borne by the local Red Cross. In 1924 the expense of the school nurse was made a part of the school budget and is now regarded as a part of the regular school appropriation. Mrs. Isabelle B. Goodale has served in the capacity of nurse since 1922.

In 1924 thru the support of the Red Cross the pupils of the public schools were given still further health service in the form of regular dental clinics conducted weekly at the schools during the larger part of the year. These were found to be of great value and have been continued to date. Dr. Edward J. Brennan has been the school dentist since the inception of this service.

The immunization of children against diphtheria, small pox vaccination, the regular inspections by the Health Officer

and the School Nurse, clinic service for tonsils and adenoids, advice to parents, and dental care have been of untold value in safe-guarding the health of the young.

In order to extend the work of a public health nurse so as to include cases of need in the entire town, the Gray-Dickinson Post No. 59 of the American Legion sponsored a movement in the spring of 1929 to organize a Public Health Nursing Association for Windsor. The association was organized and held its first official meeting March 21, 1929, in the American Legion rooms. On May 27 following, Mrs. Ida C. Davis was elected Public Health Nurse and provided with an automobile for use in the discharge of her duties.

Mrs. Davis remained in the service of the association until May, 1932, when Miss Marjorie Campbell Taylor (now Mrs. Marjorie Taylor Nelson) was engaged as her successor. The need of this important public service has been abundantly proven and the work of the Public Health Nursing Association has come to be regarded as indispensable.

### The Tax Assessors

Perhaps the duties of no town officers have changed more in a century and a quarter than have the duties of those men who assess the town taxes. In 1807 James Brown received 78 cents for making the tax list of the Half Mile district and in 1809 John M. Niles received \$3.57 for the duties involved in making the list for the Parish of Poquonock.

By the year 1900 three assessors were required to spend about two weeks annually to assess the taxes of the town, while in 1934 and 1935 the task occupied five months.

To facilitate this work and make it more accurate and equitable the town had made in 1928 a series of aerial maps at a cost of \$19,500.00. These maps, about 160 in number, are on a scale of 100 feet to the inch and show every person's land and buildings.

The present assessors are: Joseph B. Spencer, Nelson M. Williams, and Horace W. White. Mr. Spencer holds the record for long time service, having held the office of assessor con-



JOSEPH B. SPENCER, Veteran Assessor

tinuously since 1908, and is regarded as an expert in matters pertaining to tax laws and taxation.

### TOWN OFFICERS

For the purpose of comparison with the lists of earlier days and as a record for future reference this list for 1935 is given.

#### Selectmen

Eleazer Pomeroy  
Leland B. Granger  
John H. Garvan

#### Tax Collector

Earle E. Edwards  
Windsor Trust Co., Agent

#### Board of Finance

John B. Stewart  
James J. Dillon  
Charles A. Huntington, Jr.  
Edward J. Kernan  
Louis L. Rand  
Leland P. Wilson

#### Board of Assessors

Joseph B. Spencer  
Nelson M. Williams  
Horace W. White

#### Registrars of Voters

Helen R. Murray  
Ruth B. Purnell

#### Library Directors

Mrs. George N. Burnham  
Emma H. Chamberlain  
Winnifred K. Everett  
Rebecca C. Kernan  
Emma Morgan  
Harold T. Nearing

**Town Treasurer and Agent  
of Town Deposit Fund**

Lester F. Turney

**Board of Relief**Burton S. Loomis  
Hilliard Bryant  
Otis L. Conant**Board of Education**Ulric B. Mather  
Harmon T. Barber  
Nellie Foster Clark**Grand Juror**

Carlan H. Goslee

**Zoning Commission**Leland P. Wilson  
Theodore F. Neuhaus  
Ralph B. Spencer  
Oliver J. Thrall  
Homer R. Turner**Building Inspector**

Charles J. White

**Dog Warden**

J. Herbert Filkins

**Judge of Probate**

George R. Maude

**Board of Appeals**Robert W. Clark  
Donald R. Griswold  
Raymond W. Smith  
Charles F. Taylor  
Howard F. Thrall**Town Clerk**

Leslie H. Hayes

**Town Plan Commission**Eleazer Pomeroy, Chairman  
Leland B. Granger  
John H. Garvan  
Ernest S. Clark, Jr., Secretary  
Harry G. Smith  
Homer R. Turner**Justices of the Peace**Alden E. Alford  
Clyde A. Clark  
Jesse R. Colpits  
Mason C. Green  
Robert P. King  
James A. McCann  
Alfred W. Olds  
Raymond W. Smith  
Fred H. Tolles**Constables**Maurice Kennedy  
William Cahill  
John Christensen  
Francis B. McHugh  
John A. Russi  
Arthur Wall  
Fred C. Wilbraham**Tree Warden**

Fred H. Tolles

**Superintendent of  
Highways and Bridges**

Claude A. Magill

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**Town Court****Judge**

Vine R. Parmelee

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Charles E. Mahoney

**Deputy Judge**

Clyde A. Clark

**Clerk**

Russell H. Pellington

**Asst. Prosecuting Attorney**

Thomas F. O'Malley

The present area of the town is 30 square miles.

The population, census of 1930, was 8,294.

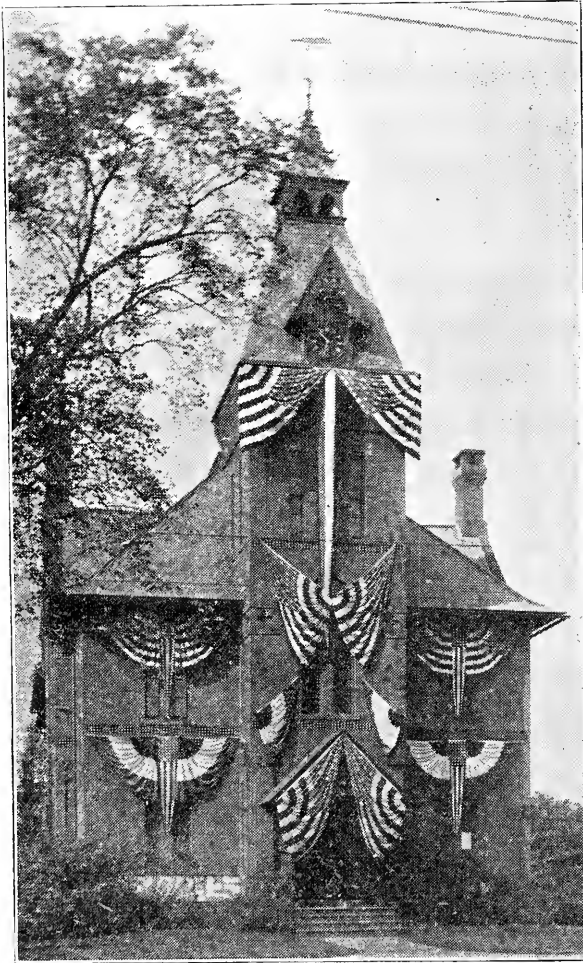


Photo by Leek

### THE WINDSOR TOWN HALL

This building at Windsor Center is the headquarters of all Town Officers, the Town Court, the Probate Court, and the Social Worker. All town meetings are held here. Voting on election days takes place here, at Poquonock Town Hall, and in the Auditorium of the Roger Wolcott School.

# Educational Progress

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## Three Hundred Years of Educational Progress in Windsor.

These words do not imply that schools existed in this Ancient Town quite three centuries ago. What then was the situation?

First of all we need to keep in mind the character of the pioneers who laid the foundation of Windsor particularly those who came in the years 1635 and 1636 and a little later. They were no ordinary adventurers. They did not come in search of gold nor for conquest or military glory. They came to establish a new home, with a new church, a new society, and a new government. They built all three on the principle of home rule and popular authority. They assumed all the responsibilities that go with independence and self control. They made their own laws, they elected their magistrates and officials, they prescribed the duties and responsibilities of all whom they entrusted with authority and held them strictly accountable for the proper exercise of every power bestowed upon them.

Under such circumstances it became of prime importance with them to establish a sound and effective system of popular education. Having bestowed upon every freeman the right to vote, universal education and self preservation became practically identical under the policies pursued for the promotion of the public welfare. Their leaders were men of learning and men of vision. John Warham, Roger Ludlow, Bray Rossiter, and the Wolcotts had few superiors among all who migrated to America in the first half of the seventeenth century. When they and their associates in the two river towns to the south of them established at Hartford in 1639 the first written constitution that created an independent government anywhere in the world, it was their purpose and their duty to maintain, perpetuate, and improve the government and the social institutions they had created.

Most of the leaders of this new state had been educated in the schools and universities of England and they never for

a moment doubted the value and the necessity of education for their children. The lack of authentic records covering the first twenty years following the settlement of Windsor prevents our saying much about the earliest schools. Evidently some parents taught their children at home, some sent their children to be taught in the home of a neighbor and paid tuition, and some provision was made that the children of the poor should be educated at public expense.

In 1644, eleven years after the arrival of the first settlers, the General Court of the Connecticut Colony approved a plan for the encouragement of higher education at Harvard College, the only college then established in New England, and in order to help scholars unable to pay their expenses every family able and willing to do so was asked to contribute not less than a peck of corn each year and William Gaylord and Henry Clarke were appointed a committee to collect the corn and send it to Cambridge.

In 1650 the first codification of Colonial laws was made. This important task was performed by Roger Ludlow of Windsor. In the chapter on government we have learned that this code declared that "a good education to children is of singular behoof and benefit to any commonwealth," and it was ordered that the selectmen of every town should have "a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbors, to see, first, that none of them shall suffer so much barbarism in their families, as not to endeavor to teach by themselves or others, their children and apprentices so much learning as may enable them perfectly to read the English tongue and knowledge of the capital laws . . . and once a week, at least, they must catechise their children and servants on the grounds and principles of religion;" further they must "bring up their children and apprentices to some honest, lawful calling, labor or employment, either in husbandry or some other trade profitable for themselves and the commonwealth, if they will not and can not train them up in learning, to fit them for higher employments; and if the heads of families shall fail in their duty to provide for the education required by law, then the selectmen shall take their children and bind them out to masters,



boys until they become twenty-one years of age and girls until they reach the age of eighteen years." The practice of binding out the children of the poor, authorized and sanctioned as early as 1650, remained in operation for about two centuries. Typical samples of the forms of indenture used may be found in the chapter on Government.

The code of 1650 also declared it to be "one chief project of that old deluder Satan to keep men from the knowledge of the scriptures" and in order that "learning may not be buried in the graves of our forefathers" therefore it is ordered that every township that has as many as fifty householders shall appoint some one within the town to teach all such children as shall resort to him to read and write, whose wages shall be paid either by the parents or masters of such children or by the inhabitants in general.

And it was further ordered that every town having as many as one hundred families should establish a school that would prepare youths for admission to the university and any town that did not comply with this order at the end of one year should be made to pay a fine of five pounds annually to the nearest school in another town.

In 1672 Windsor neglected its preparatory school for one year and had to pay five pounds to the school in Hartford.

The first schoolmaster appointed by town officials was John Branker. In 1657 he received five pounds, or \$16.67, from the town treasurer. Sixty years later the school committee authorized the employment of women teachers in the summer months and Sarah Stiles was the first schoolmistress.

The first schoolhouse was erected in 1667. We do not know the site of this schoolhouse but in 1674 another schoolhouse was ready for occupancy and Mr. Cornish was engaged to teach five months south, and seven months north of the Rivulet (Farmington River). Thus we see that there were two schoolhouses at this date, but it is impossible to say which was built in 1667 and which in 1674 and we do not know the exact location of either of them. Before these two houses were erected, private homes, usually the homes of the teachers, appear to have been used to conduct the small classes.

The year 1675 marks a memorable event in the history of Windsor's schools. It was the time of King Philip's War and John Fitch enrolled to protect this town and valley from the Indians. Before leaving home he made his will bequeathing all his property for a school in Windsor. He was wounded in the famous Swamp Fight in Rhode Island and returned home to die. His small estate became the foundation of the Union School Fund which was later increased by generous gifts from the estates of Joseph Stiles, Abraham Phelps, and Benoni Bissell. The income from this fund today helps support the high school of Windsor, which has been named in honor of John Fitch.

Between the years 1700 and 1712 the management of the town schools was somewhat divided and assigned to the parishes comprising Windsor's First Society, the Second Society, which is now East Windsor, and the Third Society, which is now Poquonock. In 1712 the legislature prescribed parish or ecclesiastical authority for the management of all public schools in the state. This act of the legislature made every parish a school district, yet subordinate to the town. Gradually, however, the parishes usurped such control as the town was supposed to exercise and became practically independent. After 1717 the parishes taxed themselves for the support of schools, elected their school committees, and generally managed their school affairs. About this time two new schoolhouses were found necessary. One had been built in 1707 on Palisado Green about opposite the General Pierson Home. The other "was raised on t'other hill" April 5, 1714. The site of the second house is supposed to have been on Stony Hill.

The law of 1712 ordered that the church parishes should have charge of the schools and that a special tax should be levied for their support. All the evidence that has come down to us warrants the belief that the church officials spent this special tax with care and prudence. The church records show that in 1721 the "First Society Agread With Mr. John Allin to keep school this year for thurty pounds if the Committ<sup>t</sup> Licks (likes) him."

In 1714 the selectmen and the "civil authority" were required to visit the schools "particularly once in each quarter of the year" and make a report in case they discovered any "disorders or misapplication of publick money."

Three years later (1717) the parishes were given the power to lay a tax for the support of their schools. The rate of the tax was 40 shillings on each thousand pounds in the parish grand list. This rate was sometimes lowered but never raised during the next fifty years.

In 1794 the right to lay taxes for the purpose of building schoolhouses was given to the districts into which the parishes had been divided about the time of the Revolutionary War.

A year later (1795) the town was required to organize "societies" which should have the management of the schools and the school money. This was the origin of the "school societies" which were separate and distinct from the ecclesiastical societies that had managed the schools since 1712.

Three years later (1798) each society was given power to appoint a number of persons not exceeding nine to serve as school visitors. They were required to visit all schools in the society twice each year and two of them must be present at each visit. For forty years this system was in operation without change. There were two school societies. The First Society consisted of eight districts covering the southern part of the town from the Hartford line to the Farmington River and the Pigeon Hill section with the eastern part of the town from Farmington to Suffield. The Second Society consisted of four districts extending from Pigeon Hill to the northwest boundary of the town.

These societies received money from the state school fund and raised a small tax for the support of schools. The society treasurers distributed this money to the district treasurers who used it for teachers' salaries and school expenses and paid it out upon orders from the district committees. The districts taxed themselves to build and maintain schoolhouses and to supply them with fuel.

The First Society also maintained an academy known as the Union School which was supported partly by the income of the Union School Fund and partly by taxation based on the grand list of the Society.

As a rule a man's school (a school taught by a man) was taught for three or four months in the winter and a woman's school for about the same length of time in the summer.

In 1838 an investigation of the schools of the state was made because it was felt that many towns were neglecting their duty and were doing very little to maintain a high standard of education. They simply spent their state funds in a careless manner with poor results. In consequence of this investigation a State Board known as the Commissioners of Common Schools was created and the school visitors were obliged to make an annual report to these commissioners showing that schools had been properly maintained according to law, otherwise the School Societies would forfeit their share of the State School fund.

A law passed in 1854 made it necessary for each School Society to raise a tax of one cent on each dollar of the grand list for the support of schools.

In 1856 the school societies were deprived of all control of the schools and their duties were taken over by the towns.

At a town meeting held on October 6 of that year reports from the retiring officials of the two Windsor Societies were received and accepted. In their place the town appointed six school visitors as follows: Albert Morrison, Richard Gay, Cicero Roberts, Richard H. Phelps, Elihu Marshall, and John B. Woodford.

This board of six was authorized to draw school money from the town treasury for the purpose of distribution to the districts, which spent it for the support of schools.

The Union School, which since its earliest days had been managed by a board of trustees, was continued under the same form of management and Anson Loomis, H. Sidney Hayden, and R. H. Phelps were appointed to draw orders on the treasurer of the Union School Fund for such part of the income of

said fund as should be necessary for the payment of teachers and also to manage the pecuniary and governmental affairs of the school generally. This plan of managing the affairs of the Union School, or Academy, continued until 1882 when the Academy was transformed into a town high school under the management of a special committee of five members.

In 1909 all the public schools of the town were consolidated under an act of the legislature passed in that year and the district committee which had existed since 1773, the board of school visitors which had the general management of schools since 1798, and the board of five high school committmen which had been in control of the high school since 1882 were all abolished and the management of all schools placed in the hands of a school committee of three members, an arrangement still in operation without change except that the state legislature has changed their name from School Committee to the Board of Education.

The first committee elected after consolidation consisted of Stanton F. Brown, Frank V. Mills, and John A. DuBon. Mr. Brown was elected chairman and filled that office with honor and distinction until 1932 except for three years 1921-2-3 when he declined to serve.

The development of the High School is especially interesting. The first academy was built in 1799. It was supported by public money but no pupil was allowed to attend unless he furnished his share of wood to heat the school rooms. In 1839 the building was found to be in need of so many repairs that many citizens advised that it be abandoned and the school discontinued. But the school had many friends who were unwilling to see it close. Too many tender memories were awakened in those who had enjoyed its educational advantages. There was a fight. Twice its friends appealed to the legislature and once they took their case to the Superior Court. The controversy ended in a victory for the school. A committee was appointed to solicit funds for a new building, which was erected in 1854 on the site of the present Congregational Parish House. This academy continued to serve the town until 1893, when the Roger Ludlow Schoolhouse was

erected and the High School moved in to remain until 1922 after the erection of the John Fitch High School.

The oldest of the existing buildings is the one-room school at Thrall which was erected about one hundred years ago. The most famous of our buildings used for elementary grades was the one-room brick building erected at Hayden Station in 1841. It was built according to plans drawn under the direction of Henry Barnard, Connecticut's world famous educator, who was then secretary for the State Commissioners of Public Schools.

It was one of his model schoolhouses and was considered so superior to the ordinary one-room country school houses then in use, that its fame spread thru the country, and it became a model which was copied in many states besides Connecticut. Fifty years after its erection the event was commemorated by public exercises and the aged Henry Barnard was the special guest of honor. Unfortunately the building was destroyed by fire a few years later and the main part of the present schoolhouse was erected on the site where the model had stood.

Thus far we have spoken largely of the physical growth of our school system and some of the houses that have given it shelter. It remains to say a word about the character of the educational product. One idea has dominated all its history in the minds of those who shaped its policies. The purpose has been to prepare the youth for the duties of citizenship. In the early Colonial days life was simple and the education corresponded to the recognized needs of the times. Reading, writing and arithmetic were about all that claimed attention in the schoolrooms. There is a popular fancy that the art of spelling was also highly cultivated in the olden days and that the youth of today have neglected and lost the meritorious attainment of which their ancestors were justly proud, but one who examines the evidence and reads the documents and literature that have come down to us will discover that spelling was largely a gift of nature and not an educational achievement, for in the olden days most people spelled by sound and combined letters to represent sounds according to their indi-

vidual taste and preference. In the olden days also the home assumed a greater share of responsibility than it does now. The boys learned manual training, the care of animals, and all sorts of useful chores, and grew up to help their fathers at their trades and on the farms. The girls learned to spin and to weave, to sew and knit, and to cook. The art of getting a living was learned from the parents.

Three hundred years have brought into existence a new society living a new life in a new world. Education at first supported mainly by the parents is now supported mainly by the public. Its most important functions then carried on in the home have now been transferred to the school. The simple program of the three R's has been expanded to include history, geography, and grammar, physiology, hygiene, and physical education, music, art, and literature, civics, citizenship, and safety, sewing, cooking, and manual training, and participation in all the social and community activities that characterize our complex modern life. In the High School a variety of subjects, many of them unknown to the early settlers, form the basis of our preparation for college, lay the foundation for success in our trades and professions, and introduce the youth to a knowledge of world affairs, the customs of society, and the problems of actual life and leisure.

Thru all these changes one guiding purpose has remained unchanged. As in the early days so now the state and the towns, which make up the state, prefer to educate their children at public expense in order to insure good citizens and promote the public welfare. The individual cannot justly make any claim upon the public treasury for his education except upon the grounds that his education and his ability are to be used to promote the best interests of society as he learns to know and understand them. On the other hand the taxpayer who contributes to the public treasury his quota for the support of schools to educate his neighbor's children is performing no act of charity or disinterested benevolence. He is simply paying his share of the expense of maintaining a suitable society in which to live. He is making an investment for his own welfare as part of the public welfare.

This raises the question of what policies the schools should be expected to adopt and follow in order that this investment may pay the largest possible dividends. Not all of the numerous subjects that have been introduced into the curriculum of our public schools during the past three hundred years have been placed there wholly because of their direct contribution to good citizenship. Far from it. Most of the arts and sciences that have been recognized as desirable subjects for study in our schools have won their place because of their industrial and commercial value. Their justification is economic. Reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, and the use of the mother tongue are fundamental for practically everybody who hopes to earn a decent living. Bookkeeping, typewriting and the commercial subjects mean bread and butter to thousands upon thousands. Physics, chemistry, and allied sciences are the foundation of the superstructure which constitutes the industrial system that dominates the age of machinery with all its machine makers, machine owners, machine users and tenders. Then we have the higher mathematics with the history, the literature, and the other requirements for admission to our colleges and technical institutions where preparation is made for leadership in business and the professions. In all these cases the taxpayers simply club together in order to purchase education for their sons and daughters more cheaply than they could have purchased it as individuals. It is good business. Every good business man recognizes the wisdom of the policy and views its dividends with pride and satisfaction. But how about the subjects that deal not with the means used to attain the end but with the end itself? What about the preparation for actual life if we have the material means with which to live? Is it not more important to live than it is to earn a living? Surely we wish to enjoy health and readily part with money in order to recover it when illness or disease deprives us of it. It is far more important to spend money to preserve it and fortify our bodies against disease. Hence physical education, hygiene, and the laws and practice of healthful living have been prescribed by law.



The State says we must teach them in every public school. Their value is beyond all estimate in dollars and cents. Our teachers of health and our school nurse pay dividends to the taxpayer far greater than any dividends paid by any stock they now own or ever will own in any bank or railroad or gold mine. Because of what the schools are doing in this respect the boys and girls of today are vastly superior in both bodily and mental vigor to any generation that has preceded them. Added to health and vigor comes the instinctive demand for beauty and for culture. Art and music are preeminent for their contributions to real worth-while living. The greatest good in life is happiness. Happiness is largely a matter of emotions and music is one of the most powerful and subtle influences in the production of emotions.

It follows that music has much to do in determining the happiness of the world and therefore pays a larger dividend than most of the subjects taught in our schools. Its influence goes everywhere that social life exists . . . in the home, the church, the club, the fraternity, on the stage, at patriotic assemblies . . . and what is begun in the schools is generally carried on thru life.

We wish to live in a community where peaceful and friendly relations prevail, where law and order are the rule and where justice in every form whether political or social, industrial or economic, is guaranteed to all. These happy and much desired results can not be secured unless the people are enlightened and well informed on political, social, industrial, and economic conditions. Hence we have civics, social science and economics in our schools, and we bring the newspaper into our classrooms to give our youth that insight into real life which is indispensable for the maintenance of what is good and the correction of what is evil in the life of our times. Money cannot measure the value of these dividends. All the generation now passing out of the schools to take the helm and guide the course of public affairs must be enlightened and well informed or there will be serious trouble in the years ahead. We face today a whole series of problems of tremendous importance whose proper solution depends upon the

wisdom and ability of these young people. We have the problems of war which has blasted and blighted the lives of millions upon millions of innocent victims and loaded the world with a crushing burden of taxes and debt. We have the problems of industrial conflict entangled with greed, injustice, and the tyranny of the rich and the strong over the poor and the weak. Can the youth of today settle these questions any better than their fathers or their grandfathers have done? They can. Not because they possess superior wisdom but because they possess superior knowledge and enlightenment. For the first time in history these problems are now receiving careful, thoro, and scientific study, and no social, political, or economic problem is too difficult for solution provided all the facts are common knowledge.

We have come a long way in three hundred years. From the simplicity of pioneer life in an age when science had hardly awakened from the sleep of centuries and when most of the popular sciences of modern times were not even born we have advanced to an age where scientific knowledge, scientific inventions, and scientific methods have rendered life amazingly complex, intricate, and perplexing but at the same time fascinating beyond the most hopeful dreams of our forefathers. We would not go backward if we could and we could not if we would but we can take satisfaction from the knowledge that we have kept alive the spirit of the fathers, we have not allowed learning to be buried in the graves of those who preceded us and we have learned and practiced the arts by which a wilderness has been transformed into one of the fairest and most peaceful communities to be found on all the earth, inhabited by a citizenry unsurpassed in virtue, morality, and reverence for the ideals which led the early settlers to choose this valley as a home for themselves and their descendants and all who should follow them.

But this does not imply any obligation on our part to observe the traditions and follow the practices of the past. Those who settled this ancient town had had enough of tradition and established customs and practices. In fact they had had too much and that is why they turned their backs upon

the Old World and came to build a democracy in the New World. In the past education has followed too slavishly the customs of the past. In the present education must concern itself with present conditions and present needs. The first settlers established here a new order and its benefits and blessings have become the marvel of the ages and along with the changes introduced by the new order have come constant changes in social environment, industrial development, and the whole scheme of living, and these have necessitated a new type of education. Education is adaptation and preparation for desirable conditions of living. Our education must continue to change in order to meet the changing conditions. It must be varied, for the same education does not and can not meet the needs of all. Old and worn out practices must be abandoned. New practices tested by scientific research, confirmed by reason and common sense, and dominated by the needs of the present and the future must be introduced and fostered. "New occasions teach new duties; time makes ancient good uncouth. They must upward still, and onward, who keep abreast of truth."

### School Notes

The following extracts from the school records together with notes derived from other sources throw illuminating side lights on the development of Windsor's educational system.

#### The First School Society

The society was organized in the Meeting House of the First Society on October 31, 1796. Captain James Hooker, Colonel Oliver Mather, Lieutenant Eliakim Marshall, and Captain Martin Denslow were the first School Committee. Oliver Mather was the first Treasurer. It was voted to raise a tax of one cent on a dollar for schooling. Daniel Ela, Phineas Picket, Lemuel Welch, Nathaniel Howard, Roger Phelps, Philip Holsey and Abel Barber were elected "a School Committee for the Districts in which they Severally Dwell."

October 10, 1797. It was voted "to Establish the School Districts as they now stand north of Windsor ferry River" (the Farmington).

North District—From the Suffield line on the north extending as far south as the brook at the south end of Pine Meadow “next north of Gaylord Denslow’s Dwelling House.” This covered approximately the present town of Windsor Locks and the east part of East Granby.

The North Middle District—South of the north district as far as the brook “near Mr. Jacob Osborn’s Dwelling House.” The brook referred to was a short distance north of the present Hayden school.

The Third District—From the North Middle south “to the south side of Mr. Taylor Chapman’s Home Lott Including Messrs Eliakim & Samuel Mather.” The southern boundary of this district was a little less than one mile north of the Farmington River Bridge near the First Congregational Church.

The Fourth District—This covered the section between the third district and the Farmington River.

Daniel Ela, Levi Hayden, Lemuel Welch, and Nathaniel Howard were appointed committeemen for these four districts.

November 27, 1797. It was voted to settle the bounds of the four districts south of the Farmington River and Gideon Barber, Elihu Drake, Abel Strong, and Fitz John Allyn were appointed committee men for these districts.

The bounds were as follows: North District—The section south of the Farmington as far as a line running east and west between the homes of Oliver Roberts and Obadiah Fuller. This line must have corresponded closely with the present Bloomfield Avenue.

It was voted, “The School House to be Built as Near as Convenient to the Baptist Meeting House.” The schoolhouse was built on Poquonock Avenue near where it is joined by the Pigeon Hill road.

The North Center District extended south from the North District as far as the homes of Oliver Loomis and Edward Moore. The southern boundary must have been in the vicinity of the present Capen Street. “The School House to be Sett at or near the place where the Meeting House lately Stood.”

The South Center District extended south from the North Center District to a lane running west between the houses of Moses Barber and Job Loomis to the west bounds of the First Society, and extending east to the Connecticut River. This lane was near the present Rood Avenue. The School House was to be placed "in the most Convenient place near the Dwelling House of Mr. John Warner." This location was near the present Stony Hill Schoolhouse. At a later period the district school was kept in a building belonging to Moses Barber, which stood on the east side of Windsor Avenue a short distance north of the entrance to Rood Avenue.

The South District covered the rest of the town south to the Hartford line. The School House was to be "Sett up in the most Convenient place South of the Brook Called Clay Brook, that Runs between Lemuel Drakes and David Drakes." This location was near the site of the present Roger Wolcott School. The schoolhouse was actually built on the east side of Windsor Avenue facing the entrance to Pipe Swamp Road, now Wolcott Avenue.

In 1832 the Society voted that the South District should be known as District Number One; the next north, as District Number Two; the Broad Street District (Windsor Center), as District Number Three; and the District in which the Baptist Meeting House stood (Pigeon Hill), as District Number Four; the South District, North of the Great Bridge, Number Five; the next North, Number Six; the Pine Meadow District, Number Seven. Number seven was in 1854 set off as Windsor Locks.

The tax of one cent on a dollar for the support of the district schools was continued yearly until 1832.

In 1834 it was voted that "the Society will do nothing about raising money for schooling."

In 1841 the vote to lay a one cent tax on a dollar again appear on the records. In 1854 the state made it obligatory for the town to levy the one cent tax.

October 6, 1856, at the annual town meeting the school society made its final report on the management of the district

schools and this management was assumed by the town. Albert Morrison, Richard Gay, Cicero Roberts, Richard H. Phelps, Elihu Marshall, and John B. Woodford were appointed school visitors and given authority to draw from the town treasury the monies appropriated for schooling. Since that date the society's main duty has been the care of the ancient Burying Ground and the newer Riverside Cemetery.

### The Academy

In 1757 the First Church of Windsor, which, before that time had worshiped on the north side of the Farmington River, built a new meeting house on the south side of the river on the site now included in the triangular green at Windsor Center, west of the present Congregational Parish House and south of the home of Leonard B. Goslee. This action displeased some of the people living on north Palisado Avenue and at Hayden and perhaps they had other reasons for feeling dissatisfied with the way affairs were managed in the church. At any rate they decided to form a church of their own and build a meeting house where it could be more easily reached and in 1761 they formed a new organization known as the North Society of Windsor. They built their meeting house on the west side of the road about a mile and a quarter north of the site of the first meeting house which had stood on Palisado Green. In their separate meeting houses the two societies carried on their church activities until several years after the close of the Revolutionary War.

With the return of peace and the establishment of a new nation it seemed fitting that the two churches should also make peace and settle their differences. They did so in 1793. A part of the agreement by which the two churches again united and became one provided that a new meeting-house and a new union school should be built for the common use of all on both sides of the river.

The new meeting-house was built on the north side of the river in 1794. The Union School, commonly called the Academy was built on the south side of the river in 1799, on the site lately occupied by the meeting-house of 1757, which had just been torn down.

The Academy building was erected with funds raised by subscription. It was a two-story building "at least of the contents of 24 feet square upon the ground."

The North Middle School District south of the River (later the Third School District) desired to build a school-house at the same time and upon the same site and levied a tax of seven cents and two mills on a dollar for that purpose. Therefore it was agreed that the district building should be united to one end of the Academy in "such manner that the whole building shall appear uniform." The district part of the building had "rooms sufficient to accommodate two schools, one for the larger and one for the smaller schollars." Taken in its entirety it was evidently a four room schoolhouse and constituted a Union School in a double sense.

On November 25, 1799, the society voted "Schollars Shall be Admitted in the School After they are Twelve Years old untill they are Eighttteen" and that the School be Set Up on the first of June next (1800) and Continued Untill the Interest for one year be expended." Three years later it was voted that "If the School is more than full the Committee Impowered to Rule out the Youngest Schollars," that "the Number to fill the School shall not Excede 40 Schollars," and that "the Committee be Impowered to Exclude any Schollar that shall not Carry his Share of Wood for the use of Said School."

The revenue for the support of higher education at this time came from the interest on the Union School Fund which fund then amounted to about Two Thousand Dollars. Four trustees managed the affairs of the school. In 1808 it was decided to increase the revenue by charging tuition to pupils coming from other societies at the rate of four dollars per quarter for those studying Latin, Greek, or mathematics; three dollars per quarter for those studying geography, English grammar, belles lettres, and vulgar arithmetic; two dollars per quarter for those studying reading and writing. Pupils belonging to the Society were to pay half tuition. Five years later the half tuition rule was repealed. From 1820 to 1824 funds were raised by subscription to augment the revenue of the schools.

The following document shows the method of making up arrearages.

“The sums due from cash subscribers for the continuation of the Union School for four years from October A. D. 1820 to make up arrearages of sd School for said term of time being \$1.19 upon each dollar subscribed April 24, 1824.

Original Subscribers' Names

|                                   |              |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Martin Ellsworth                  | (\$15) ----- | 17.85 |
| Rev <sup>d</sup> Henry A. Rowland | (\$10) ----- | 11.90 |
| Do—one-fifth of                   | \$10) -----  | 2.38  |
| Edward Selden                     | ( \$1) ----- | 1.19  |
| Isaac Hayden, Jr.,                | ( \$3) ----- | 3.57  |
| Jasper Morgan                     | ( \$3) ----- | 3.57  |
|                                   |              | 40.46 |

The above is handed to Jasper Morgan . . . to collect and account for . . .

Elisha N. Sill  
William S. Pierson.”

In 1827 it was voted that 16 cents per week be charged all pupils who studied English and 25 cents per week be charged those that studied languages and higher mathematics.

Before 1839 a difference of opinion had arisen as to the wisdom of continuing the school. On February 2 of that year the society voted “53 yeas and 40 nays” to petition the next legislature for the right to divide the “avails of the funds appropriated to the Union School among the several districts in this School society by the Schollars.”

This action started a fight that lasted fourteen years. Two hearings were held before the legislature and once the controversy was carried to the Superior Court. All decisions were favorable to those who wished to continue the School. The battle to retain the Academy and preserve the Union School Fund had been won under the leadership of Jasper Morgan, James Loomis, and Henry Halsey.

On June 11, 1853, a meeting was held in the Academy schoolroom and it was voted to procure a site to which the Academy Building could be removed or on which a new build-



ing could be built. Henry Halsey, Anson Loomis, and Edgar Loomis were appointed a committee to carry this work into effect.

The task of securing funds was a difficult one. Unable to secure the desired amount in Windsor, Henry Halsey, chairman of the committee, appealed to former students of the Academy who had "gone abroad" to New York and other cities and there achieved fame and fortune. Some of these men responded generously.

|                       |      |          |
|-----------------------|------|----------|
| Hon. E. D. Morgan,    | sent | \$100.00 |
| James Hooker          | "    | 100.00   |
| Hon. J. C. Loomis     | "    | 100.00   |
| H. B. Loomis          | "    | 100.00   |
| Sons of Levi Hayden   | "    | 100.00   |
| Gen. F. E. Mather     | "    | 50.00    |
| Wm. S. Pierson, Jr.,  | "    | 50.00    |
| R. G. and F. A. Drake | "    | 50.00    |
|                       |      | \$650.00 |

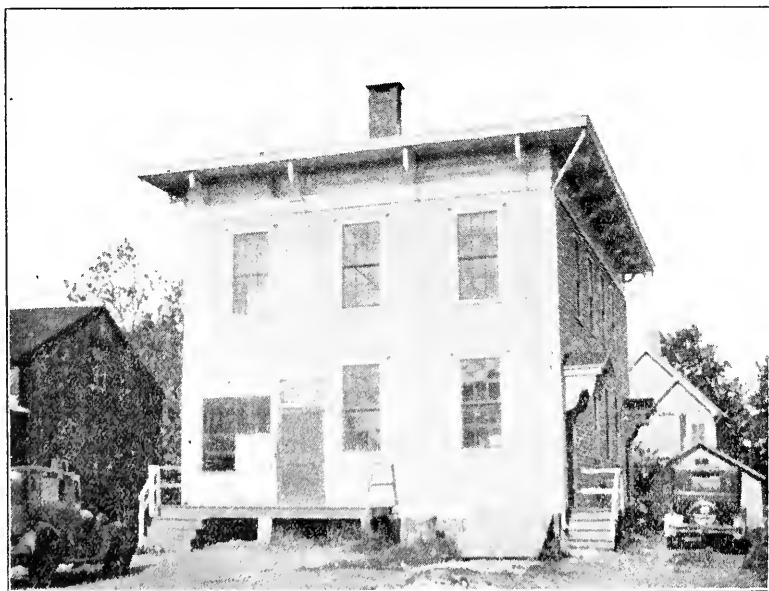
The correspondence with these men brought out interesting comments. Hon. E. D. Morgan wrote "Leaving as I did my father's house to travel on foot to Hartford, March 20, 1828, when but seventeen years old to commence life on my own account with but two shillings and three pence in my pocket 'Yankee currency' as capital, contracting with my late much respected uncle Nathan Morgan to work in his store as general clerk for a period of three years at a salary of \$40 for the first year, \$50 for the second, \$60 for the third year."

To Mr. James Hooker, Henry Halsey wrote: "As a community we are far from being poor. There is thrift observable in all parts of the Society. Take us as a whole we are a hard working people, but an overestimate is made of the dollar and an underestimate of education. It was not so fifty or sixty years since."

Mr. Hooker replied: "While you think they overestimate the dollar and underestimate education it is but the history of the many in all ages. Believe me it was so in the days of my father as well as now and will be for all time to come."

Local subscriptions totaled \$1,874.50. The sale of old lumber and the collection of debts due to the Society added \$354.89. Thus the grand total of funds available for erecting the new Academy was \$2,878.89. A lot just east of the old Academy was purchased of James Loomis and the new Academy was erected in 1854 on the site now occupied by the Congregational Parish House. The cost of the land, building, and equipment was \$2,841.39. In 1855 subscribers contributed \$97.00 more to equip the upstairs hall so that it might be available for lyceum meetings. Before the new building was erected the Third District had donated its interest in the old building to the First Society which was now free to dispose of it, and it was removed to a site on the grounds now occupied by the Lorillard plant and used as a boarding house for operatives of the Sequasson Woolen Company until it was destroyed by fire in March 1873.

From 1855 to 1882 the new building housed the Union School under the administration of the three trustees of the



SECOND ACADEMY—Erected in 1854

Society. In 1877 a movement began whose purpose was to transform the Academy into a town high school. In the same year the lower room was rented to the Third School District as a schoolroom for the younger pupils. This arrangement continued for five years when the Union School became a high school (October, 1882) and was placed under the control of a high school committee of five elected by the town. The high school remained in this building until 1893, when it moved into the new building erected by the Third School District on Bloomfield Avenue. In 1894 the Academy building and lot were sold to Strong H. Barber who resold the property to the First Congregational Church Society for \$2,050.00. About six years later the church society sold the building to Lawrence Mullaley, who moved it to the rear of 192 Broad Street, where it still stands. As late as 1913 it was rented by the town and used as a schoolhouse for primary grades. Since 1913 it has been used for business purposes.

A clause in the deed given by the School Society in 1894 guarantees that the land on which the loved Academy had long stood shall never become a school for drunkenness and intemperance. It reads: "The condition of this deed is such that any time intoxicating drinks are sold on the above described premises by or with the consent of the grantee or his successors then in that event this deed shall be null and void and said property shall revert back to the said First School Society in fee simple."

### High Schools

About 1871 a movement was set on foot to transform the Union Academy into a High School. The difficulty of obtaining sufficient funds to maintain a satisfactory school for pupils of high school age and ability appears to have been the main reason for desiring the change. The movement culminated in a vote of the town on October 2, 1882, to establish a High School in District Number Three and appropriate \$775.00 for its support. At the same time an appropriation of \$200.00 was made for a High School at Poquonock, provided the Second School Society approved the plan.

To manage the new High Schools Reuil H. Tuttle, E. Spencer Clapp, Gowen C. Wilson, William L. Bidwell, and Eugene Brown were elected a high school committee. The organization of a High School at Poquonock was delayed for several years, but the Academy was at once transformed into a High School and Willis I. Twitchell became its first principal in the fall of 1882. On March 22, 1883, Mr. Twitchell resigned this position to accept the principalship of the Arsenal School in Hartford. John Rossiter was engaged to fill the vacancy till the following June. He was succeeded by Otis H. Adams who was principal from September 1883 to June 1887.

June 17, 1887, the first graduation was held. There were two graduates, Annie G. Albee and Josie E. Rhaum. The program follows:

#### PROGRAMME.

PRAYER.

REV. G. C. WILSON.

DUET . . . . . Through Valley, Through Forest.

THE MISSES MAY AND BELLE DICKSON.

RECITATION . . . . . The Little Black-Eyed Rebel.

DORA F. CALDWELL.

READING . . . . . Farmer Stebbins at Ocean Grove.

KATIE J. KENNEDY.

VOCAL DUET . . . . . Cheerfulness.

THE MISSES ZULIE CALDWELL AND MYRTLE MOFFATT.

RECITATION . . . . . Brier Rose.

EMMA D. WILSON.

READING . . . . . Jane Conquest.

MAY L. DICKSON.

SONG . . . . . Graduating Ode.

ESSAY . . . . . Cyrus the Great.

ANNIE G. ALBEE.

SOLO . . . . . Home, Sweet Home.

N. BELLE DICKSON.

ESSAY, WITH VALEDICTORY . . . . . The Value of Reading.

JOSIE E. RHAUM.

SOLO . . . . . The Mill in the Forest.

ZULIE M. CALDWELL.

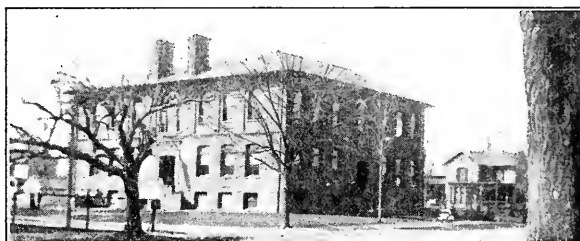
## PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.

REV. R. H. TUTTLE.

SONG . . . . . Good Night.

From September, 1887, to July, 1890, H. E. Sawyer was principal. In September, 1890, Mr. Sawyer was succeeded by Helen M. Cleveland, who served until the summer of 1893, when the school was transferred to the new building on the corner of Spring and Bloomfield Avenue.

Beginning in 1888 one part-time teacher was engaged to assist the principal. Annie G. Albee was assistant for two years and part of another. Anna D. Clapp finished the year 1890-91. Mabel E. Cobb served in that capacity till June, 1893.

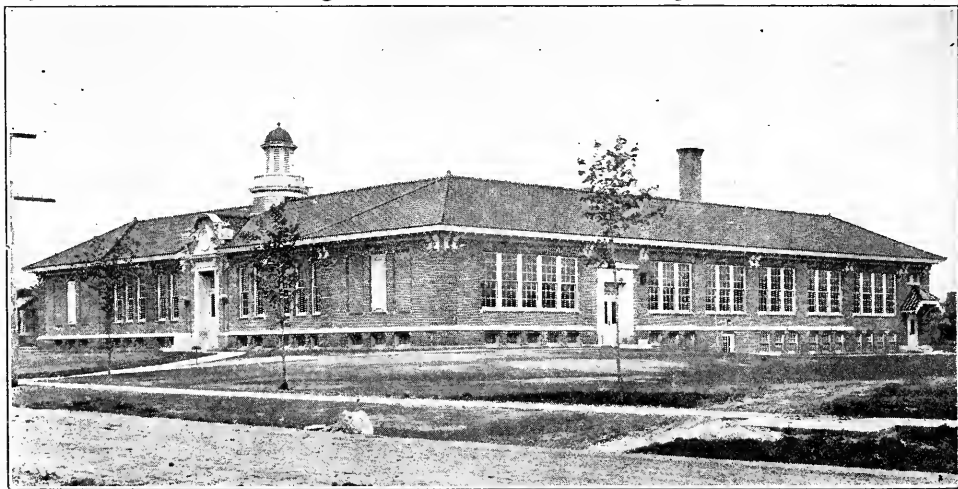


THE HIGH SCHOOL IN 1893

The High School occupied rooms on the second floor, and lower grades occupied the rest of the building

The High School remained in the building now known as the Roger Ludlow School Building from September, 1893, to January, 1922, when it was transferred to its present location in the John Fitch High School Building on Bloomfield Avenue.

The John Fitch High School on Bloomfield Avenue was begun in 1921 and finished in 1922. In 1929 the first annex was built to the east of the main building. A second annex containing eight rooms was built in the rear of the first in 1934.



THE JOHN FITCH HIGH SCHOOL IN 1922

The principals since 1893 have been :

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Roscoe A. Hutchinson | 1893 to 1898 |
| F. Everett Smith     | 1898 to 1899 |
| Herman S. Lovejoy    | 1899 to 1903 |
| John W. Kratzer      | 1903 to 1910 |
| Mary M. Wilson       | 1910 to 1914 |
| Charles S. Preble    | 1914 to 1915 |
| W. Scott Austin      | 1915 to 1918 |
| Charles A. Tucker    | 1918 to 1919 |
| William Hoyt         | 1919 to      |

In the spring of 1894 it was found necessary to give the principal an assistant and Miss Jennie Loomis was engaged in that capacity for two hours each day and continued thru the following year. In September, 1895, Miss Edwina Whitney became the first full-time assistant.

Today (1935) the High School has an enrollment of 455 pupils and a teaching staff of 18 besides the principal. Its graduates go to the best colleges and universities or into business and professions and do not suffer by comparison with the best High Schools in our state.

The Poquonock High School had a brief career. It opened in 1891 with Roscoe A. Hutchinson as principal. He remained in charge of the school until July, 1893, when he was transferred to the High School at Windsor Center. Mr. Hutchinson's place at Poquonock was taken in September, 1893, by Edgar M. Johnson of East Providence, R. I., a recent graduate of Brown University.

The next year (1894) the first class was graduated. There were six graduates: Annie H. Clark, Addie M. Huntington, James Ramsey, Clara L. Roberts, James H. Wilson, and Fred M. Snow.

Mr. Johnson remained as principal until the summer of 1895, when the Ninth District Committee petitioned the Board of School visitors to discontinue the High School and establish a grammar school in its place. The petition was granted and since 1895 Windsor has had but one High School.

### School Supervision

Prior to 1904 the only inspection and supervision of public schools in the town of Windsor was the periodical inspection of the School Visitors and the resultant issuing by them of rules, regulations and orders for the guidance of the teachers. In August of that year a vote was passed in town meeting giving approval to the engagement of a Superintendent of Schools. As a result the School Board at once took steps to form a joint supervision district with West Hartford, and William H. Hall became Superintendent of the district. At the end of three years the supervision district was dissolved and John W. Kratzer, principal of the High School, was appointed superintendent for the fall term of 1907, in addition to his duties at the High School. This plan of supervision was continued until 1910 when the towns of Windsor and Windsor Locks united in a supervision district for a period of three years with Daniel Howard of Windsor Locks as superintendent giving three days each week to the schools of Windsor and two days to the schools of Windsor Locks. At the end of the first term the contract was renewed for another three-year period. By 1916 the increase in Windsor's school population and the consequent need of more supervision caused Windsor

to notify Windsor Locks that the contract would not be renewed for another term.

Mr. Howard removed to Windsor in the fall of 1916 and gave his whole time to the supervision of the town schools until July 1, 1934, when he retired as active superintendent and was made Superintendent Emeritus by the unanimous vote of the Board of Education.

Dr. Earle S. Russell of New Haven, an experienced teacher and superintendent, was elected to take charge of the Windsor Schools and entered upon his duties in the summer of 1934.

### **The First District School**

In March, 1805, at the request of the representatives of the South School District, the First School Society appointed Capt. Aaron Cook, Daniel Alcott, and Ashbel Spencer to determine where the South District Schoolhouse should be built. The site selected was on the east side of the main highway opposite Pipe Swamp Road (now Wolcott Avenue). The building was soon erected and is known to have been in use for some years before 1812.

November 9, 1817: "Voted to repair the schoolhouse." This is the earliest official record referring to the house.

1818: "Voted that they will have a stove in the schoolhouse."

1819: "Voted that the teacher shall board around in the district in proportion to the scholars."

"Voted that there shall not be any scholars admitted or taught until their proportion of wood is brought and inspected."

1831: "Voted to employ Miss Laura Barber to teach our school at one dollar and twenty-five cents per week."

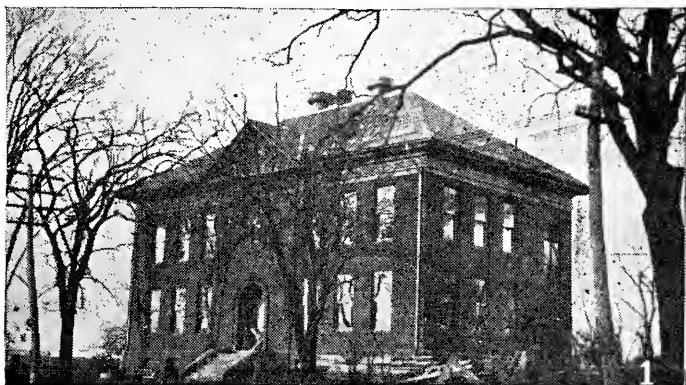
1837: "Voted that the instructor be requested to enumerate the scholars daily."

1843: "Voted that the committee be directed to hire the teacher boarded at one place provided that he can get board at one dollar and twenty-five cents per week."

1856: A two-story school building was built on a new site. This building is still standing (1935).



In 1916 a four-room building was erected in front of the two-room building, which it was planned to tear down. An unexpected increase in the school registration made it necessary about two years later to resume the use of the old building and soon afterward two portable buildings were set up nearby. In 1925 a two-room portable was removed to the Highlands and an eight-room building erected to take care of the increased enrollment.



THE FIRST DISTRICT SCHOOL—Erected in 1916

### The Second District School

April 17, 1840: "Voted to commence the school on Monday after the election and to continue to the first of November and to be supported by a tax on the scholars in proportion to the time of attendance after the public money is expended."

October 23, 1840: "Voted to raise 30 cents per scholar for wood the ensuing season."

1850: The old schoolhouse was sold at public auction to Henry Capen for \$68.62. A new schoolhouse was erected on the site of the old building and additional land purchased for a playground. This site was on the east side of the road opposite the present schoolhouse.

1899: The title to the schoolhouse lot on the east side of the road was transferred to Dr. E. E. Case in exchange for a new site on the west side of the road and a new schoolhouse was erected.

### The Third District School

February 8, 1799: "Voted that the District Schoolhouse be built the ensuing season," that it "shall be joined on to the Society Schoolhouse proposed to be built," and that it shall "have room sufficient to accommodate two schools, one for the larger and one for the smaller scholars."

December 20, 1799: "Voted that for the present season there be a Man and Woman school kept in the District Schoolhouse and that both of said schools be kept on equal time," that "for each scholar attending or coming to either of said schools there shall be furnished two foot of two feet wood, cut at two feet in length corded up and the quantity to be determined by the School Master," and "that those who choose to furnish money instead of wood, as aforesaid, may so do, by paying to the School Master, one shilling and nine pence, for each scholar."

1801: It was voted that there be a man school and a woman school kept during the winter but that neither school should "be kept longer than so as to leave twelve dollars of the public money to be expended in a woman school next summer."

November 28, 1832: Voted to employ William Howard as teacher at 13 dollars per month, he boarding himself.

1853: The Third District purchased a building lot of Horace Bower on the north side of Poquonock Avenue a short distance from the site of the Old Academy. Here they erected a wooden building which served as a schoolhouse until 1893, in which year a brick building was erected on Bloomfield Avenue. This building is now known as the Roger Ludlow Schoolhouse. The building on Poquonock Avenue is still standing and has been used for business purposes in recent years.

In 1913-14 a four-room annex was attached to the Roger Ludlow School. Pupils who had been attending school in the Academy were transferred to the new building.

In 1925 the Roger Ludlow School had become so crowded that it was necessary to erect a new building and a six-room brick building was constructed on Hayden Court near the High School. This building now houses the upper grades of the Third District and the older pupils from Stony Hill, Pigeon

Hill, Bell School, and Hayden. It is named the H. Sidney Hayden School.

### The Fourth District School

The "North District South of the River" had a school before the days when accurate school records began to be preserved for purposes of history. Hence few details of importance are available of a date earlier than the year 1847. On November 28 of that year a notice was issued to the voters of the Fourth School District to meet in their schoolhouse on December 3 following, for the purpose of making arrangements to sell the schoolhouse and for "exchanging or purchasing land for the erection of another thereon at or near its present location." Also to raise money "by tax or loan to defray the expense so incurred."



THE PIGEON HILL SCHOOL

This schoolhouse in the Fourth District was built in 1848 and abandoned in 1923

One year later the new schoolhouse had been completed and the following bill was paid:

Building Committee to S. Cooper, Dr.

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| To one schoolhouse on contract, | \$550.00 |
| To extra work as agreed,        | 8.00     |
| To lumber for fence, 429 feet,  | 6.68     |
| To nails and building fence,    | 1.50     |
| To cash paid for window sills,  | 1.14     |
| To window curtains,             | 1.35     |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| To 187 feet of lumber at \$19.00 per M,                        | 3.55     |
| (A few other small items, and various notations were included) | 3.60     |
|  | \$575.82 |

Received Payment

Windsor, November 24, 1848     Sumner Cooper

The schoolhouse was a typical one-room brick building, including the usual small entrance hall with two coat rooms, and stood within the triangle formed by the junction of East Street and Poquocneck Avenue.

The following order for a "man teacher" and the receipted bill for a "woman teacher" show the character of the school expenses about a century ago:

Windsor, March 15th, 1845, Treasurer of School District No. 4, First Society in Windsor:

Please pay to Cicero Roberts the sum of \$72.00, it being his due for four months' service as teacher in said District at \$18.00 per month.

Yours &c.

J. P. Ellsworth, District Committee.

Mr. William Shelton Dr. to Rhoda B. Phelps for teaching school in District No. 4—12 weeks at three dollars a week—\$36.00.

Rhoda B. Phelps.

Received payment, R. B. Phelps.

The following bill tells the story of a pupil from the Fourth District who pursued advanced studies in the First Academy at Windsor Center:

Mr. William Shelton—To Windsor Union School, Dr. For 23 weeks tuition at 9<sup>d</sup>—\$2.88.

Received payment,

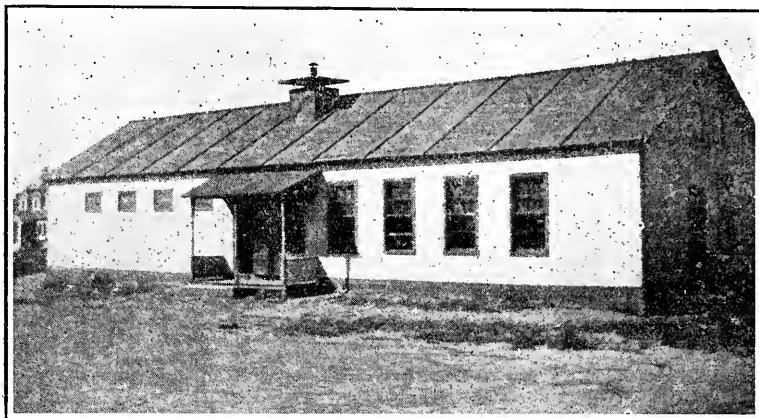
Windsor, July 28th, 1842.

John L. Spencer.

Note: 9<sup>d</sup> equalled 12½ cents.

The schoolhouse, which was known as the Pigeon Hill School, was found to be unsafe in 1923. It was immediately abandoned. Later it was sold and torn down to make way for a modern filling station.

When a portable building was set up at Deerfield to relieve the congestion in the First District, the Deerfield School was designated as the Fourth District for purposes of book-keeping and statistics. In 1929 the portable building was disposed of and an eight-room brick building was erected, which is now in use. This is known as the Deerfield School.



DEERFIELD SCHOOL BEFORE 1929

During its occupancy this building was known  
as the Highlands School

### The Fifth District School

The original schoolhouse built in 1707 was a two-story building and stood on Palisado Green until 1827, when it was moved to a site farther north and placed on the spot now marked by the Grant Memorial. Here it stood until early in the school year 1870-71, when it was burned. The old schoolhouse lot was sold at auction and a new site selected. As the district could not agree upon the choice of land to be purchased the School Visitors of Windsor Locks were called upon as arbitrators. They "set off" a lot on the west side of the highway a short distance farther north than the old site and a new schoolhouse was built in 1871.

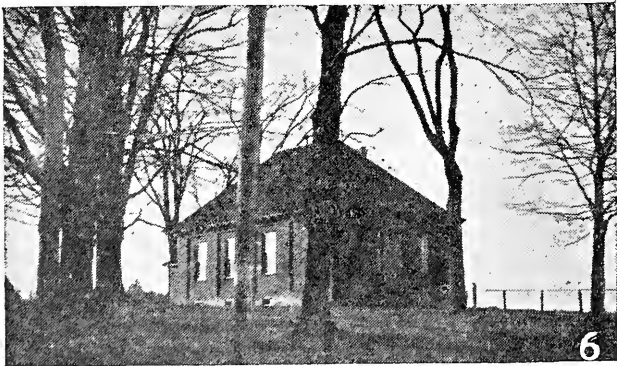
November 18, 1871: It was voted, "That the Fifth School District accept the gift of a bell for their new schoolhouse from Gen. Wm. S. Pierson and do return their thanks for the

same, requesting the donor to have cast on the bell his name with date, also the following inscription: Presented by Gen. Wm. S. Pierson to District No. 5 of Windsor, 1871."

### The Sixth District School

Jabez Haskell Hayden, born in 1811, gives the following description of the old schoolhouse in the Sixth District. "When I was three and a half years old I went to the summer school nearly a half a mile away, barefooted, and sat on the little bench which was made from a slab brought from the saw-mill. It stood on four legs set in auger holes, with the flat side up, on which I sat with no rest for my back. For the older pupils a writing desk was arranged along the wall at the sides of the room, with a seat along in front of it and when the scholars sat facing the teacher they could rest their backs by leaning against the edge of the board which constituted the writing desk. The room was warmed by an open fireplace in the corner of the room, and the parents were expected to furnish their quota of wood in winter for the fire and board the schoolmaster, except such families as did not live as well as their neighbors."

In 1841 a new schoolhouse was needed and a one-room brick building was erected according to a plan drawn under the supervision of Hon. Henry Barnard, then Secretary of the State Board of Commissioners for Connecticut Common



THE HAYDEN SCHOOL—Erected in 1896

Schools. It was regarded as the model schoolhouse and was widely copied with variations both in Connecticut and other states and also in Europe.

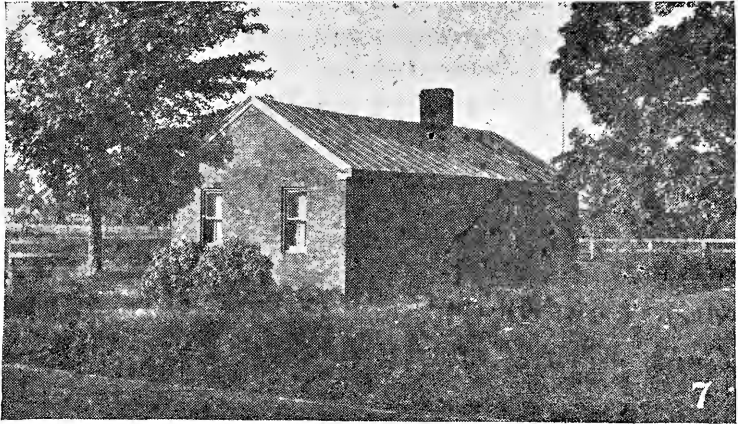
On October 9, 1891, the district celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the erection of this schoolhouse and the aged Dr. Barnard was present and delivered an historical address. Four years later, October 11, 1895, the building was destroyed by fire. For the remainder of the school year the classes met in the Hayden Chapel, which was generously loaned for that purpose. By the fall of 1896 a new building had been erected on the site of the old one and substantially like it. Twenty-four years later (1920) another room with a basement for the heater was added to the rear of the original building.

### **The Seventh District School**

As nearly as can be ascertained the schoolhouse was built more than one hundred years ago. The records show that Hezekiah Griswold deeded one quarter of an acre of land to the South School District, Second Society (later the Seventh District), on April 28, 1806. On December 18, 1850, Talcott Mather deeded the Seventh District one-half acre of land which apparently covered the lot purchased in 1806. A few weeks later the district sold back to Mr. Mather one-fourth acre.

On April 23, 1878, Hudson N. Griswold deeded to the Seventh District the school lot as it now exists. The reason for so many deeds covering the same lot is not apparent, but the adjustment of boundaries and the strengthening of titles was probably involved.

No record of the construction of the schoolhouse has been found. Miss Candace E. Griswold reports that she was a pupil attending this school in 1861 and she knows that her father, her uncles, and her aunt all attended school in the same building. The east end of the building is of later construction, but it seems probable that the main part including the classroom, was built soon after the first deed was given in 1806. As this type of schoolhouse is now an object of historic interest we include the following cut showing how it looks today. It is still used as a primary school for the community.



THE SEVENTH DISTRICT SCHOOL

Better known as the "Thrall School"

### The Eighth District School

Accurate information regarding the schoolhouses at Elm Grove goes back only to the year 1859, when, according to the records of Mrs. Carrie Marshall Kendrick, her mother, Charlotte Allen Phelps, attended school in a little wooden building that stood on the west side of Poquonock Avenue a short distance south of the present Elm Grove School.

One pupil, who evidently attended the school a little earlier than 1859, has left a written record saying that the schoolhouse stood on high ground, which the pupils called the "hill of science." The interior was at the time in need of repairs, especially the ceiling, which had been broken in many places by "unruly pupils." In one corner of the room was a closet in which the teacher often confined these unruly pupils for the purpose of punishment, but as the lower half of the door was broken, the pupils quite enjoyed their punishment while they peered thru the broken door to observe what was taking place in the schoolroom. Just north of the "hill of science" was a brook, which splashed and gurgled on its way to the river.

After 1859 the building no longer served as a schoolhouse. It was removed to a position farther west and some distance



from the highway and used as a dwelling house. Then another change took place and it was made into a distillery for the manufacture of cider brandy. Then is served as a tobacco shed and a farm building and finally it was destroyed by fire in July, 1924. To offset this transformation the Eighth District bought a tavern, cut the building in two and changed part of it into a schoolhouse. This became the present Elm Grove schoolhouse. It was purchased February 10, 1859, from Mr. Henry Keney. The upper room, which had been used as a dance hall, continued to be used for that purpose and for other community and social purposes until 1913, when the school, which had been carried on in the lower room, became so large as to necessitate transforming the dance hall into a second schoolroom. Later the overflow increased and a vacant store room on the lower floor was turned into a classroom and three teachers were employed. The number of pupils soon began to decrease and in 1921 all the older pupils were transferred to the John M. Niles building at Poquonock, and since that date Elm Grove has maintained only a one room primary school.

### **The Ninth District School**

August 20, 1840: The North Middle School District (later the Ninth District) Second Society voted to raise Five Hundred Dollars by a tax to build a schoolhouse.

October 30, 1840: At a meeting held in the schoolhouse it was voted that the building committee procure a box stove two and one-half feet in length for the schoolhouse.

The old schoolhouse that had been in use prior to 1840 was sold to William Soper.

April 27, 1841: "Voted that the schoolhouse may be occupied one year commencing the 1st April, 1841, as a place of Public Worship by the Congregational order by the payment of twenty-five dollars."

In 1847, Miss Ellen H. Lewis was hired to teach the summer school for seven shillings a week and board. In the winter her salary was increased to two dollars and board. She was to be boarded at Marcus Linsley's for eight shillings per week provided "we can not get her boarded less."

April 19, 1853: Voted seven hundred dollars to build an addition to the schoolhouse.

March 11, 1874: Voted to erect a suitable building for a graded school at a cost not to exceed eight thousand dollars.

April 8, 1874: "Moved that the present school building of this district be sold at public auction on Wednesday the 15th day of April, 1874, at 7½ P. M., the building to be given into the possession of the purchaser on Saturday morning 25th April at 7 o'clock A. M. and to be moved off the school lot on or before the 2nd day of May, payment to be made to the Treasurer of the Dist. on or before the 1st day of July, 1874."

April 15, 1874: "The old schoolhouse put up at auction. Bid off by John Kearney for two hundred forty-five dollars." This old building was moved to Kearney Lane north of the Catholic Church where it is still occupied as a four-tenement house. The new building which had four rooms that are still in use stands on the site of the old one. School was opened in the new schoolhouse in the fall of 1874. In 1916 two more rooms were added to make the present six-room building.

July 12, 1876: "Moved, whereas R. E. Ensign as Committee of the 9th School Dist. of Windsor allowed the study of Latin contrary to the express vote of the district, voted that we censure him for his conduct." This vote was "not carried."

### **The Tenth District School**

Previous to 1870 a schoolhouse stood on the east side of the highway at the foot of the hill just north of the present Rainbow School. Between 1870 and 1873 this building was abandoned and a new one-room building was erected on the present school lot. In 1878 this building was found to be inadequate for the number of pupils to be accommodated and an added room, now known as the ell, was built on the north side of the first building.

### **The Eleventh District School**

Before the year 1916 no one had suggested the need of a school at the Griffin Tobacco Plantation. A small number of children living on the Windsor side of the boundary line between this town and Bloomfield had been cared for in the

Bloomfield schools. But about 1915 a considerable number of new houses for the accommodation of workmen on the tobacco plantation were built in Windsor and in the spring of 1916 Mr. Fred B. Griffin offered to give land for school grounds on condition that the town should erect a schoolhouse. The offer was accepted and a one-room schoolhouse was erected in time for use in the fall of 1916. This building was so overcrowded that in 1919 a portable one-room building was set up beside it for the accommodation of the lower grades. In 1933 the town began transporting the upper grades to the John M. Niles School and the building erected in 1916 is now used for the lower grades.

### The Twelfth District School

Before 1918 pupils from the Hazlewood section of the town had been transported to Rainbow and Poquonock. An increase in numbers caused the town to purchase a portable building in 1918 which was set up on land donated for the purpose from the local plantation of the American Sumatra Tobacco Corporation. This building now houses the lower grades while the older pupils are transported to Rainbow and Poquonock.

### The Second School Society

May 6, 1799: The following orders were paid to teachers for the winter term of 1798-99:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| To Abiel B. Griswold, teacher in the North District,                  | \$31.50 |
| To Israel Stoughton, teacher in the South District,                   | \$26.00 |
| September 10, 1799: To John Griswold, teacher in the Middle District, | \$63.00 |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| October 25, 1799: Paid Benjamin Moore for "Boarding the School Mam in the South District," | \$13.34 |
|--|---------|

October 6, 1856: The Second School Society made its final report on the management of schools to a town meeting. The schools were taken over by the town and since that date the main duty of the Society has been the care of the Elm Grove Cemetery.

October, 1862: It was voted in town meeting "that the South School District in Poquonock be changed to School Dis-

trict Number 7, that the district called the South Middle in the Second Society be changed to School District Number 8, that the school district in the Second Society called the North Middle be changed to School District Number 9, that the school district in the Second Society called the North or Rainbow District be changed to District Number 10."

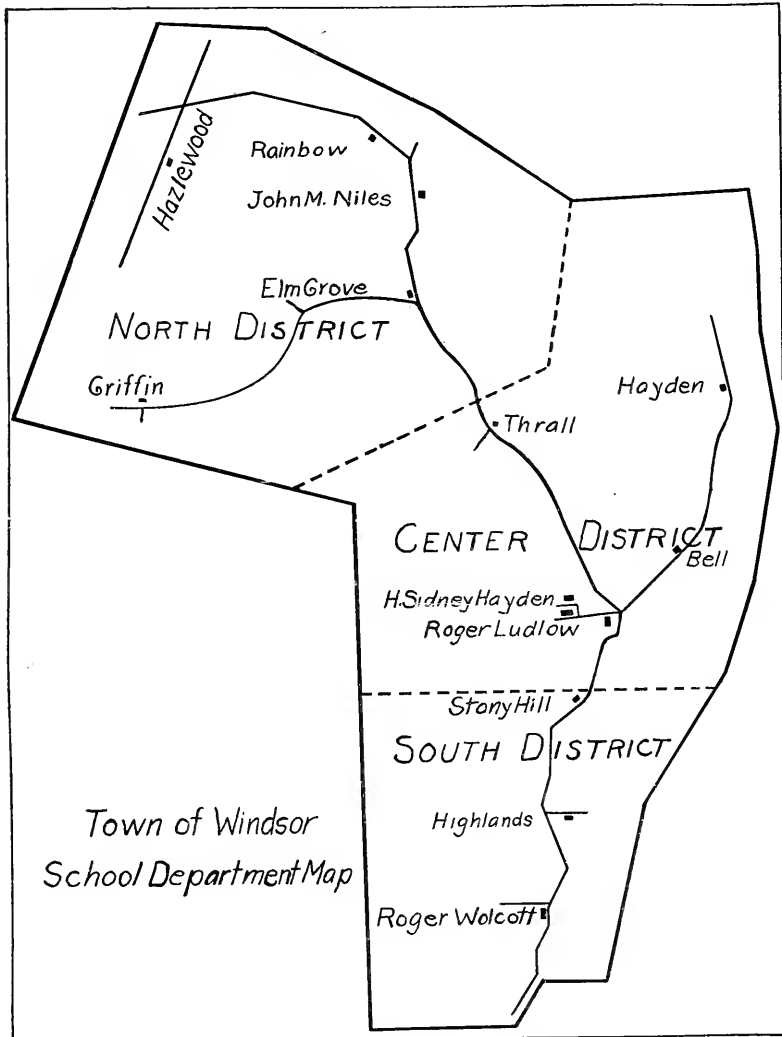
Among the notes on the schools of earlier generations are several that reveal the financial cost of school maintenance. For purposes of comparison we include a modern school budget:

ESTIMATE OF WINDSOR'S PUBLIC SCHOOL  
EXPENSES FOR 1935-36

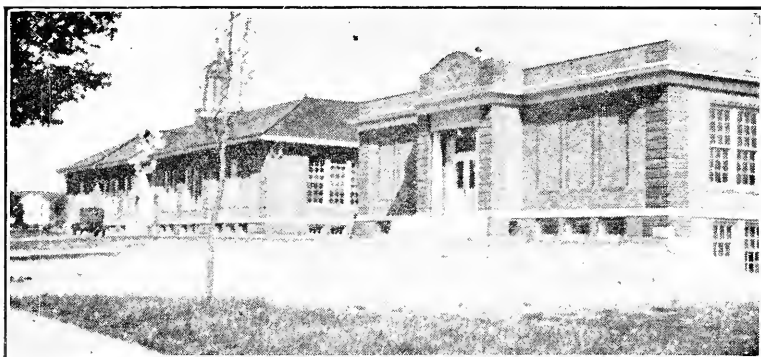
|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Clerical Expenses,                | \$2,300   |
| Enumeration of Children,          | 150       |
| Teachers,                         | 109,500   |
| Textbooks,                        | 3,800     |
| Supplies,                         | 3,500     |
| Janitors and Building Supervisor, | 11,724    |
| Fuel,                             | 5,500     |
| Water and Lights,                 | 2,400     |
| Repairs and Extensions,           | 4,476     |
| Insurance,                        | 3,775     |
| Equipment,                        | 3,000     |
| Library,                          | 400       |
| Transportation,                   | 8,400     |
| Express and Cartage,              | 25        |
| Miscellaneous,                    | 2,000     |
| Night School,                     | 300       |
| Superintendent's Disbursements,   | 400       |
| Telephone,                        | 350       |
| Total,                            | \$162,000 |

**The Schools of Today**

The illustrations that follow show the main schoolhouses of Windsor as they appear today. Under the names of the schools appear the names of the teachers for the current school year. The first illustration shows the boundaries of the present supervision districts.



SUPERDIVISION DISTRICTS ADOPTED IN 1929



THE JOHN FITCH HIGH SCHOOL

High School—William Hoyt, Principal; Mary M. Wilson, Lena E. Brown, John E. Powers, Katherine V. Fleming, Elsie M. Owen, Samuel Crockett, Virginia Mills, Martha A. Downs, May L. Moore, Harold B. Bender, M. Elizabeth Lee, Lillian A. Fischer, Caroline Keeler, Grace L. Harrison, Esther Joy Wooley, Easter K. Thompson.

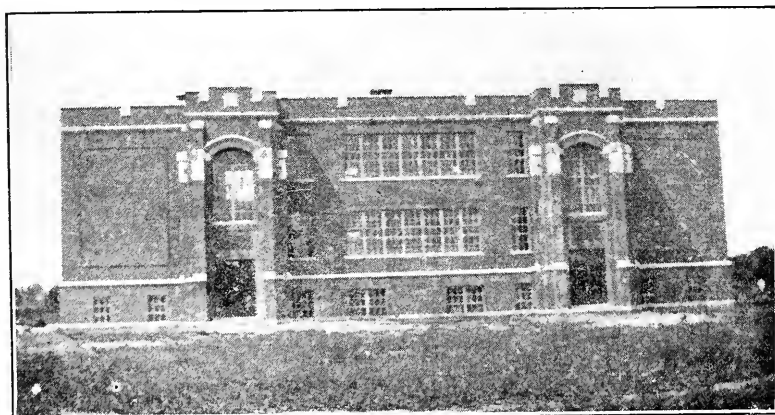
Manual Training—Clifford S. Sawyer.

Music—C. Louise Dickerman.

School Nurse—Isabelle B. Goodale.

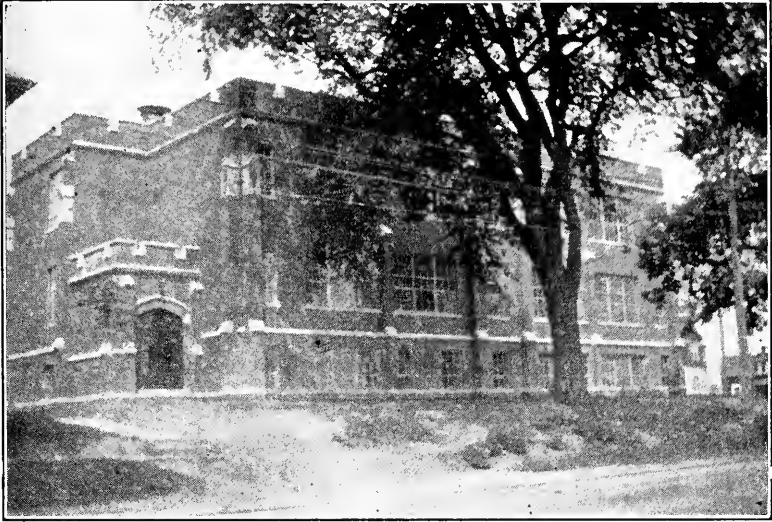
Superintendent of Schools—Earle S. Russell.

Superintendent Emeritus—Daniel Howard.



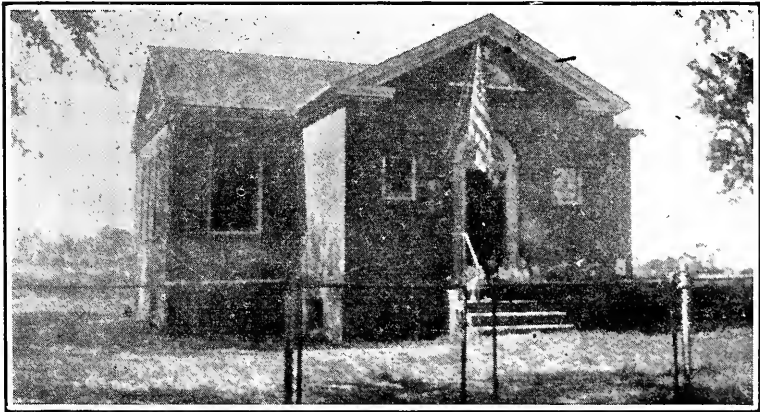
THE H. SIDNEY HAYDEN SCHOOL

John J. Rolfe, Principal; Marion L. Blake, Head Teacher; Alice A. Winch, Mary C. Hart, Gertrude H. Mersereau, Helen O. Barr, Eileen C. Madigan



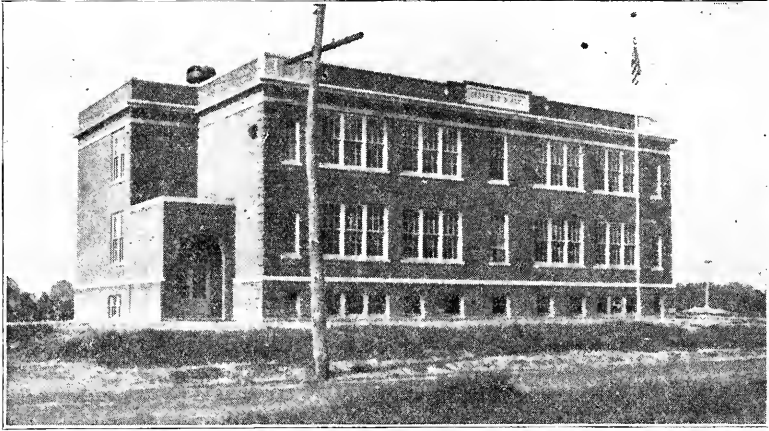
### THE ROGER WOLCOTT SCHOOL

Ervin S. Farrington, Principal; Calla R. Newberry, Head Teacher; Elsie M. Welch, Mary A. Greenan, Leona E. Bunnell, Alice E. Brady, Mary A. Regan, Marietta L. Clark, Elizabeth H. Cook, Christina Balletti, Julia Christensen, Hilda E. Rego, Katherine B. Smith, Frances S. Drury, Mae Biggerstaff, A. Alma Genest.



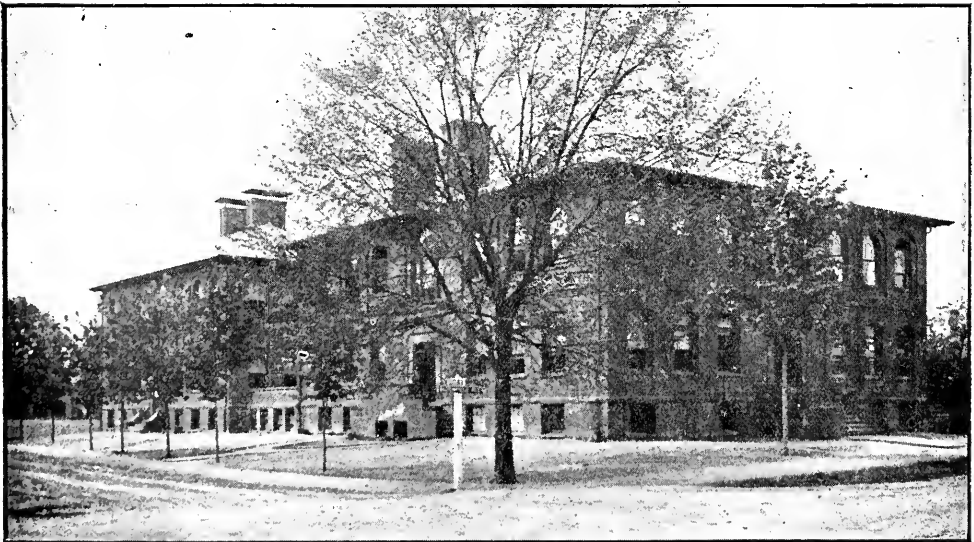
### THE STONY HILL SCHOOL

Edith B. Kelso



### THE DEERFIELD SCHOOL

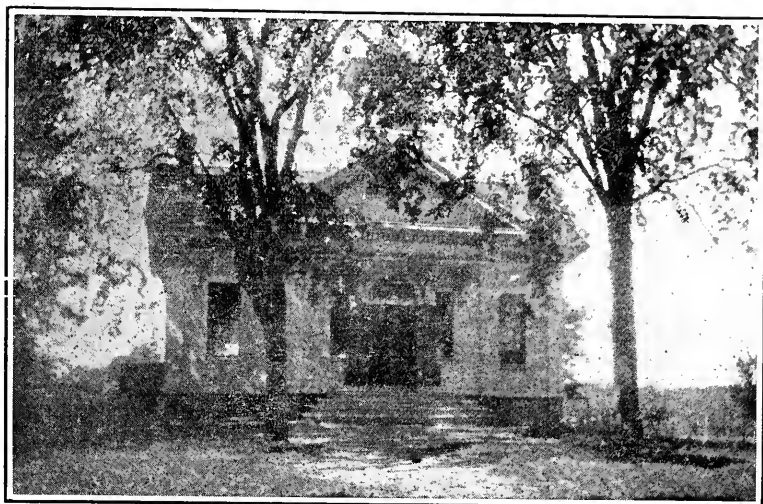
Linda M. Balletti, Head Teacher; Arvilla R. Sachsenhauser, Gladys A. Wood, Helen E. Barry, Florence E. Carl, Murtle E. Chase.



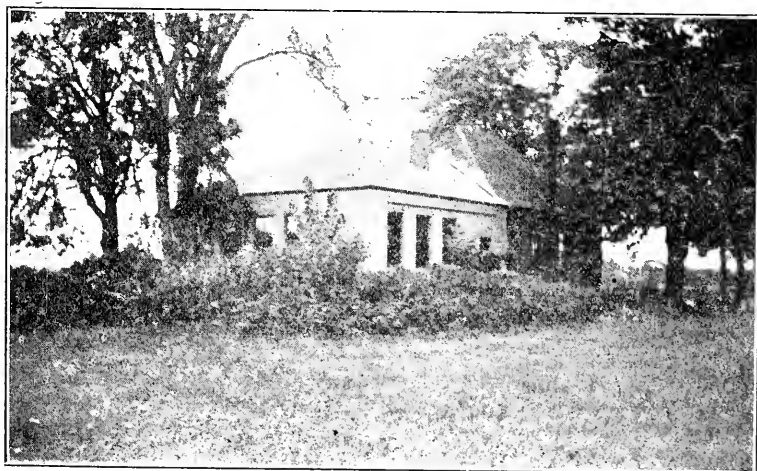
### THE ROGER LUDLOW SCHOOL

Inez C. Scarle, Head Teacher; Adeline P. Brown, Gladys M. Huckins, Doris E. Holcomb, Marie H. Drescher, Grace Pienovi, Margaret E. Wolcott, Mary M. Folliette, Mabel F. Holt, Alice M. Brown





THE BELL SCHOOL  
Anna M. Whitehouse



THE HAYDEN SCHOOL  
Mary V. Frohlinger, Kathryn M. Frohlinger



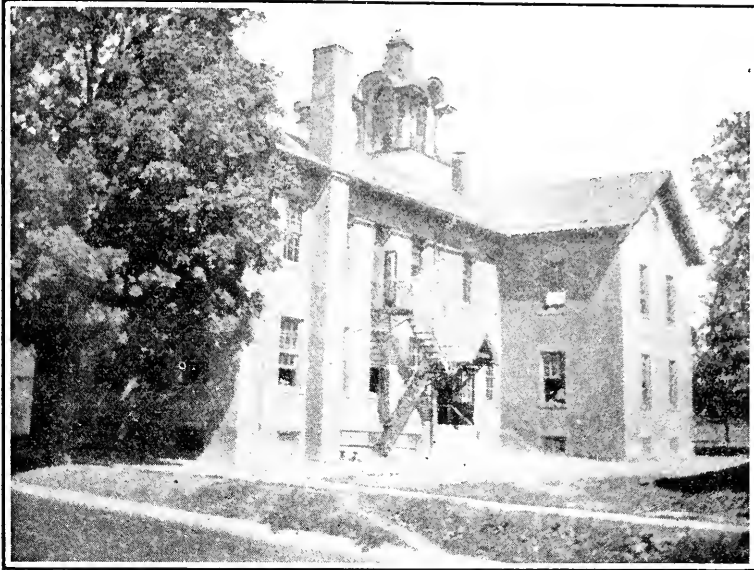
THE THRALL SCHOOL

Inez M. Remington



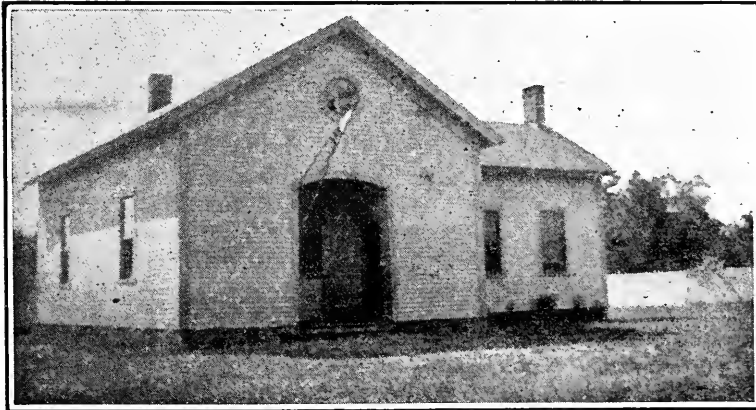
THE ELM GROVE SCHOOL

Wilhelmina R. Holmes



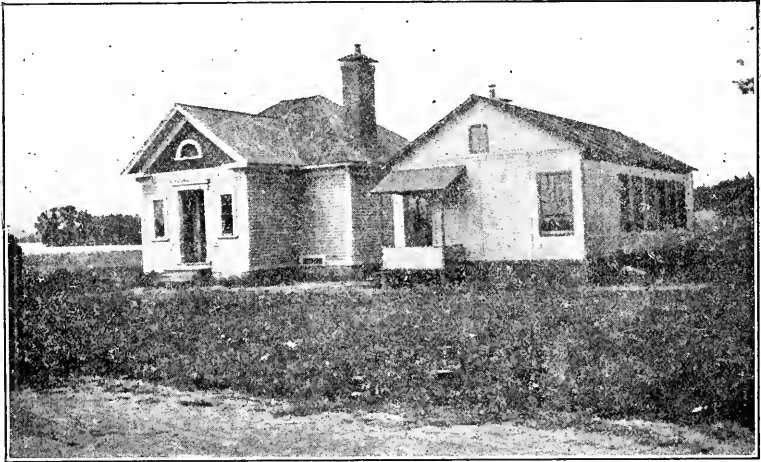
### THE JOHN M. NILES SCHOOL

William M. Farris, Principal; Catherine K. Welsh, Head Teacher;  
Frances Donovan, Sylvia Irene Raymore, Catherine L. Maher,  
Margaret E. Eyre, May L. Longtine

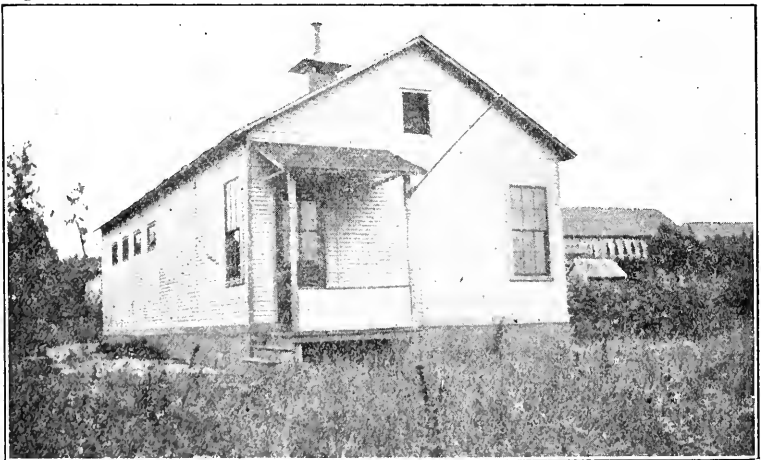


### THE RAINBOW SCHOOL

Emily L. Goodhue, Bertha H. Rogers



THE GRIFFIN SCHOOL  
Edith Remshack



THE HAZLEWOOD SCHOOL  
Elizabeth O. Masta

## Private Schools

### The J. B. Woodford School

In colonial days the records show that the well-to-do among the citizens of that period often engaged private teachers who taught pupils in their homes, but no record has been found of definitely established private schools earlier than about the middle of the nineteenth century, when John B. Woodford established a boarding school in the Taylor Chapman house on Palisado Avenue. This school soon moved to the Sill House east of Palisado Green, where the dormitory rooms then in use still serve as a reminder of "school days." The school was in operation in 1856 and probably a little later, but the exact date of its closing has not been found.

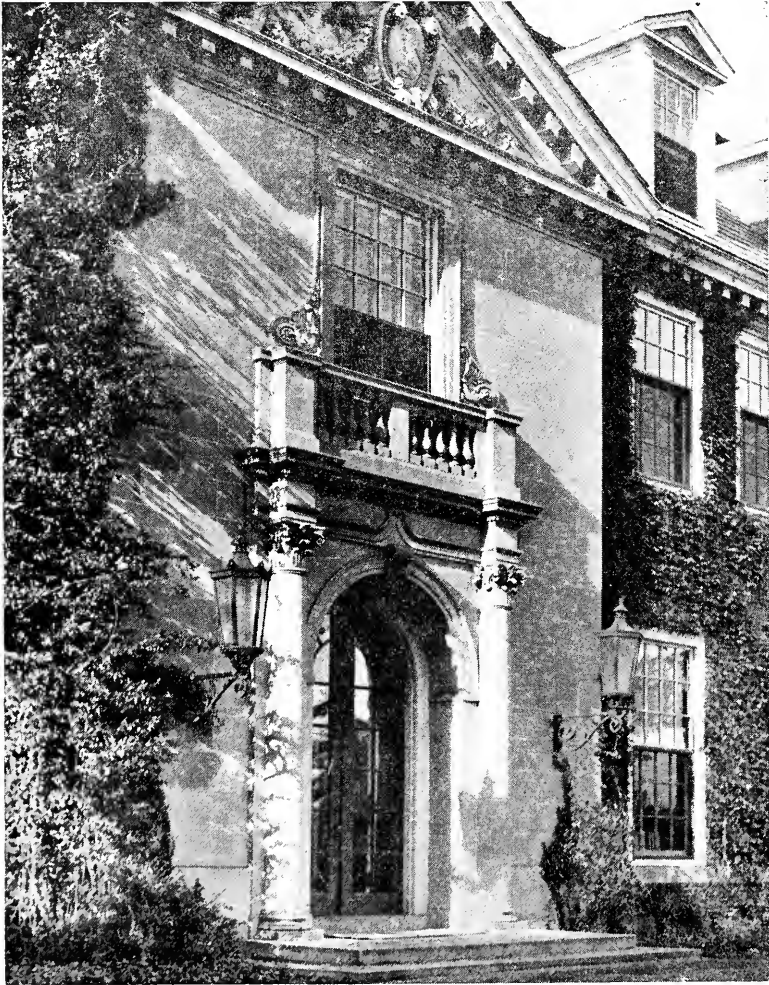
### The Loomis Institute

This internationally known educational institution had its inception in the combined philanthropy of four brothers and a sister, James C. Loomis, Hezekiah B. Loomis, Osbert B. Loomis, John Mason Loomis, and Abby S. Loomis Hayden, wife of Judge H. Sidney Hayden, descendants of Joseph Loomis, one of the early Windsor pioneers, who settled on the "Island" about 1640.

In 1872, having survived all their children, they resolved to leave their combined estates to educate the children of others and to establish a worthy memorial for themselves and the family name. Two years later their benevolent intentions found expression in a legislative "Act to Incorporate the Loomis Institute in the Town of Windsor." The act granting the charter was approved July 8, 1874, and amended by a later act approved July 28, 1905. To support the institution established by this charter the brothers and sister united in an agreement to endow it with their fortunes and made their wills with this object in view.

Upon the death of John Mason Loomis, the last survivor of the group, and his wife, Mary H. Loomis, the endowment, amounting to two million dollars, later to be augmented by three hundred thousand dollars from the will of William H. Loomis and two hundred thousand dollars from miscellaneous gifts, became available for use and the trustees, appointed

under the provisions of the charter, at once began active preparations for the building and opening of a school on the ancestral estate near the original home of Joseph Loomis, which is still standing and occupied by Miss Jennie Loomis.



FOUNDERS HALL  
The Main School Building at Loomis

An experienced and successful educator was sought for the responsible position of Headmaster. Nathaniel Horton Batchelder, who had received both the bachelor's and the master's degree from Harvard, engaged in literary work, and taught at Hackley and Hotchkiss, was chosen. Entering upon his duties in 1912, he worked with the trustees and their architect in planning the buildings and formulating the courses of study and was ready to open the school in September, 1914.

At first the small number of girls applying for admission were taught on the "Island" in the same buildings that served the boys' department. Later, after an amendment to the charter permitted the establishment of a separate department off the "Island," the girls were housed for a few years in a building owned by the Institute on Poquonock Avenue. In 1926, the Institute having acquired the historic Sill, and Chaffee houses and other property facing the Palisado Green, the girls' department was named the Chaffee School in honor of Abigail Sherwood Chaffee, mother of the founders of the Institute, and moved into new quarters in the newly acquired property.

Today, while the two schools have separate quarters and, for the most part, separate faculties, Mr. Batchelder is Headmaster of both the Loomis School for Boys and the Chaffee School for Girls. Mrs. Jeanette T. Cloud acts as resident director at Chaffee.

By the provisions of the charter and the wills of the donors, in the matter of admission to both schools preference is given first, to members of the Loomis family; secondly, to residents of the Town of Windsor; thirdly, to residents of the State of Connecticut; and lastly to others regardless of state or nation.

Headmaster Batchelder and his able and efficient corps of over thirty assistants have watched the Institute grow from a small beginning to capacity membership, the present enrollment being 385 students. Those in attendance at Chaffee and the local boys of the Loomis School come as day students. Others are provided for in the fine dormitories that border the school campus. Tuition is free and the charges for room,

board, and books place the yearly cost of education here several hundred dollars below what is usual in other high grade preparatory schools.

Students are attracted from all parts of the United States and many have come from foreign countries. Every year the number of applicants far exceeds the number that can be accommodated.

Loomis graduates take high scholarship ranks in the leading American Universities and at European Universities such as Trinity College, Dublin, and Oxford. In athletics and physical training the school's record is outstanding. The combined schools offer courses in preparation for college, business, and domestic science.

#### The Warham School

In September, 1928, a private school for children in the primary and elementary grades was organized by Mrs. Adelaide H. Hoyt at her home on Warham Street. She named her school the Warham School. Later she extended the scope of the curriculum to include all grades below the high school. After Mrs. Hoyt's death in November, 1933, the school was carried on at the same location until June, 1934. In the following September the school was taken over by Mrs. Katharine Hibbard and removed to the former home of William H. Harvey at the corner of Windsor Avenue and Hill Crest Road. At the end of one year in the new quarters a new management was announced with Mrs. Florence E. Sellers at the head.

#### Hayden Hall

In September, 1867, under the sponsorship and encouragement of H. Sidney Hayden a "Young Ladies' Institute" was organized and established on Broad Street a short distance south of Maple Avenue. Two cousins, Miss Julia S. Williams and Miss Elizabeth Francis, then recently graduated from Mount Holyoke College, were placed in charge of the school, Miss Williams serving as principal. The school was successful and became widely known as a boarding and day preparatory and finishing school for young women. It continued under the later name of Hayden Hall until June, 1902.





THE CAMPBELL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS      Photo by Leek  
(A view of the Home and Dormitories)

The following year the school property was taken over by Marian Blake Campbell and Alfred Hills Campbell, who organized and established a new school known as the Campbell School for Girls. Under their management it continued until 1919. The home of the school is now known as the Campbell Apartments. The school building proper which was remodeled under the Campbell administration and contained the classrooms and gymnasium faces on Maple Avenue and is now the Odd Fellows Hall.

### **Educators and Authors**

Windsor's educators, clergy, and public and professional men and women have acquitted themselves honorably and creditably in the field of literary effort. Her roster of those who have written for publication may not include as many well-known names as can be furnished by a few of Connecticut's favored literary centers, but the following should be recorded as among the town's native and adopted sons and

daughters whose publications have received more than local recognition.

Roger Ludlow, born in England, educated at Oxford University, came to Windsor in 1635 and served as the first president of the General Court thus becoming the first "de facto" governor of the colony though never receiving the title of governor. He drafted the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut and wrote the Code of 1650 which became the foundation of the written laws of the State

John Warner Barber was born February 2, 1798. He became Windsor's most noted historian. His works include *Historical Scenes in the United States*, *History and Antiquities of New Haven*, *Historical Collections of Connecticut*, *Elements of General History*, *European Historical Collections* and many other books of great popularity and value.

Oliver Ellsworth was one of our greatest writers on jurisprudence. See sketch in the chapter on Men of Note.

John M. Niles born at Elm Grove August 20, 1787, established the *Hartford Times* and led in the fight for a written constitution which was secured in 1818. See the chapter on Men of Note.

Edward Rowland Sill was Windsor's most distinguished poet. A sketch of his career will be found in the chapter on Men of Note.

Mrs. Christine Ladd Franklin was born in Windsor, December 1, 1847, graduated from Vassar in 1869, and for several years was a contributor to the *Educational Times of England*. In 1878 she was granted a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University where she studied for three years tho the University was a men's institution. While there she was a contributor to the *American Journal of Mathematics*. She now became known as an investigator in the field of logic and color vision and wrote the *Algebra of Logic*. Later she continued her studies at Göttingen and Berlin.

In 1910 she became a lecturer on logic and psychology at Columbia University.

In 1924 she was chosen an assistant in the preparation for publication of Helmholtz's work on *Physiological Optics*.



CHRISTINE LADD FRANKLIN

Vassar granted her the degree of LL.D. in 1887 and Johns Hopkins made her a Doctor of Philosophy in 1926.

In 1928 her collected papers on color theories were prepared for publication in the International Library of Philosophy, Psychology, and Scientific Method.

Jabez Haskell Hayden was born in Windsor December 20, 1811. From 1838 to 1881 he was a manufacturer of sewing silk at Windsor Locks where he resided until his death December 1, 1902. After his retirement from business he devoted himself to genealogical and historical research and writing and became Windsor's leading authority on local history. He contributed largely to Stiles' Ancient Windsor and was the author of a volume of Historical Sketches and many occasional essays and papers.

Daniel Howard was born in Foster, R. I., December 15, 1864, graduated from Brown University in 1893 and took post graduate courses in History, Sociology, and Economics. He served as High School principal at Wallingford and at

Windsor Locks, Conn., became Superintendent of Schools and came to Windsor in 1910 and remained in charge of the town schools until 1934 when he retired as Superintendent Emeritus. Besides contributing to papers and magazines he has written a genealogy of Isaac Howard and his descendants, the United States its History, Government, and Institutions, History Stories of Connecticut, Howard and Brown's United States (in conjunction with S. J. Brown), Glimpses of Ancient Windsor and a New History of Old Windsor.

Harry C. Barber was born in Windsor May 23, 1881. He graduated from the Windsor High School in 1897, spent a year in the Connecticut Literary Institute, and graduated from Amherst College in 1902. He then taught mathematics in Nebraska, in the Connecticut Literary Institute at Suffield, Conn., in the Fitchburg, Mass. High School, at Phillips Exeter Academy, and is now in the mathematics department of the English High School in Boston, Mass. He has served as the President of the National Council of Mathematics Teachers and is the author of many books including Teaching Junior High School Mathematics, Mathematics for the Seventh Grade, Mathematics for the Eighth Grade, Every Day Algebra, and a Second Course in Algebra.

Mrs. Mary Hazelton Wade was born in Charlestown, Mass., March 23, 1860. She was for a time a teacher and in 1901 became a writer of children's books for schools and libraries. Her books include the Little Cousin Series and many books dealing with child life, history, and biography. She has resided in Windsor since 1923.

Mrs. Doris Campbell Holsworth was born at Plymouth, New Hampshire, in 1897. She came to Windsor with her parents who organized the Campbell School for Girls in 1903 and except for a short residence in Massachusetts has resided here since that time. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1919 and studied dramatic art and technique at Emerson School of Oratory and at Radcliffe College. Later she took a course in pageantry at Yale University. Her literary productions consist largely of plays for children and historical pageants including the pageant of Windsor's Church Tercentenary in 1930, Wethersfield's Tercentenary in 1934, Saybrook's Tercentenary and others in 1935.

### The Windsor Public Library

The histories of public libraries in Windsor goes back at least one hundred thirty-five years. On the well kept records of the Union Library we find the first entry dated December 8, 1800, which suggests its connection with the Union Academy that had opened its doors earlier in the same year.

The first entry reports a meeting of the proprietors of the library. Roger Newberry was chosen moderator, Christopher Wolcott, clerk, and Elisha Moore, treasurer. George Warner, Jerijah Warner, Elihu Drake, and Elisha Strong were elected a library committee. Elihu B. Stanton was made librarian and a tax of fifty cents was assessed upon each proprietor.

The expenses of the enterprise were modest during its early days. We find annual taxes of fifty, sixty, or seventy-five cents a year assessed on each share held by the proprietors in order to replenish the treasury and in 1804 we find that the librarian was voted a salary of Five Dollars per year.

After operating with apparent success until after 1840 the library found the legality and validity of its articles of association called in question. A committee appointed to investigate the situation reported that the articles "were of no effect."

In 1841 the association voted to divide the books among its members. This vote was later rescinded. On January 14, 1845, a meeting was called to consider a proposal to sell the books. The minutes of the meeting record that "there was a warm discussion." Many of the proprietors opposed selling the books. The clerk recorded, "there was much scolding, no business done, no lives lost & no bones broken."

In November, 1846, the proprietors voted to sell the books at auction to the members of the company. A month later they voted to draw up a new constitution, to secure a suitable room "for the use of the librarian, and appointed George Howard to act as librarian until one is duly chosen." There the record ends.

Another library existed at Poquonock, but no detailed records have been found. Some cases of its books were in the town hall not many years ago.

The present public library had its beginning in 1888. The prime movers in its establishment were Miss Martha S. Clapp and Mr. H. E. Sawyer, then principal of the Public High School. One hundred fifty persons joined with them and subscribed One Dollar each to start a library. The first meeting of the subscribers was held February 27, 1888, in the high school room, where "The Windsor Library Association" was organized and a committee of five was chosen to manage its affairs. This committee consisted of Mrs. Sarah A. Tuttle, Mrs. Walter W. Loomis, Mr. H. E. Sawyer, Mr. Nathaniel W. Hayden, Secretary, and the Rev. Frederick W. Harriman, Chairman.

In the following April the library opened its doors to the public. Its first quarters were in the office of the Judge of Probate in the Windsor Center Town Hall, where Judge H. Sidney Hayden had previously provided shelves with glass doors for the protection of books, and the encouragement of a reading room. Here the library remained until 1895, when it was moved to the Academy building on the northeast corner of Broad Street Green. Until 1901 it was maintained in the former home of the Academy by the united efforts of the local churches. In this year the Association was able to purchase the old homestead of the late General Frederick Ellsworth Mather, which was built at the southwest corner of the Broad Street Green by Col. Oliver Mather about the year 1777. The books were soon moved into their new home, where the library has since remained.

It may be interesting to note how the association was able to purchase this home and the land that went with it for the sum of Forty-five Hundred Dollars. The purchase was made possible thru the generous gifts of public spirited friends. Miss Olivia S. Pierson donated \$4000; Miss Eliza W. Hills, \$1000. Other benefactors followed. Mr. Stephen Hills bequeathed \$1000; the Tuttle, Crompton, and Russell families added \$925; Mrs. Euphemia A. Loomis of New York gave \$300; Col. Oliver R. Holcombe gave \$250; Mr. William H. Harvey, \$100; Mrs. Sarah H. Paret, \$100; Mr. William Sill, \$100; Mr. Charles W. Cook, \$25; Miss Frances Bissell, \$5; from entertainments and friends, \$344; by the will of Mrs. Mary M.

Holcombe a bequest of \$5000 to erect a building or make additions to existing buildings. Thus the Association has been able to furnish a home for the town's library and maintain it without cost to the town for rent or repairs.

The Association was incorporated in 1901. It is "authorized and empowered to purchase, receive, hold, and convey all kinds of property, both real and personal . . . for the purpose of establishing a public library in . . . Windsor; and all property of said corporation, including any funds or estates heretofore or hereafter donated to it for the purposes of said library, to an amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, shall be exempt from taxation."

"The town of Windsor may fix, by a by-law, an amount which shall be appropriated and paid annually by said town thereafter for the maintenance and increase of the library of said corporation, which library, during the whole of the time such payments are made, shall be free to the inhabitants of said town. If said town shall make an annual appropriation for this purpose, then the town may elect two persons each year for a term of three years (six in all) who, with a committee of the corporation, shall constitute a joint committee for conducting the library and reading room."

The association consists of twenty-five members. When vacancies occur they are filled by the remaining members.

"The Book Committee shall consist of six directors who shall with the six directors elected by the town constitute a joint committee who shall have general oversight of the library and reading room, including the appointment of the librarians for the various branches and the selection of books to be purchased from the town grant and the state appropriations."

The state contributes annually One Hundred Dollars for the support of the library which is used for the purchase of books. The town appropriations have varied with the needs of the library. The appropriation for the current year is Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars.

In 1893 the librarian's report showed 50 subscribers and 905 books in the library. In 1895 Miss Grace M. Blake, libra-

rian, reported "The library has been moved from the town hall to the old schoolhouse and changed from a subscription to a free library." From 50 subscribers the number of patrons had increased to 281.

At Poquonock a branch library was opened in the John M. Niles School by the late Mrs. Emma K. Hatheway. After her death this library was named in her honor the Emma K. Hatheway Branch Library. It was moved, first to a small building on the east side of the street near the Poquonock Bridge and later to a room in the Poquonock Town Hall. The present librarian is Mrs. Enuice Greenwood Cairns. In 1927 the Wilson Branch Library was opened in the basement of the Roger Wolcott School. The librarian is Mrs. Pearl Young. The Hayden Branch Library was established in 1929 in the chapel of the Congregational Church at Hayden, the rent being donated by the Congregational Society. Miss Eleanor Norris is the librarian. Previous to this time books from the main library had been distributed voluntarily at Hayden by public spirited ladies of the community.

For purposes of comparison with the report already given for 1893 the following statistics are taken from the librarian's report for 1934.

The number of members:

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Main Library -----           | 1,700 |
| Emma K. Hatheway Branch----- | 362   |
| Wilson Branch -----          | 523   |
| Hayden Branch -----          | 133   |
|                              | <hr/> |
| Total -----                  | 2,718 |

Circulation:

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Main Library -----            | 40,945 |
| Emma K. Hatheway Branch ----- | 11,618 |
| Wilson Branch -----           | 12,317 |
| Hayden Branch -----           | 6,862  |
|                               | <hr/>  |
| Total -----                   | 71,742 |

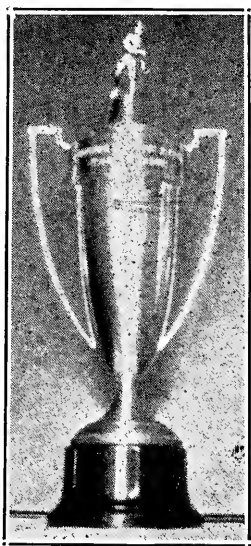
New books added during the year----- 722

The total number of books is approximately 11,000



The list of librarians from 1800 to 1935 includes the following names of persons who entered upon their duties on the dates given: Elihu B. Stanton, 1800; William Loomis, 1808; David Filley, 1821; Allyn M. Mather, 1832; Martha M. Drake, 1840; Horace H. Sill, 1844; George Howard, 1846. Period of no records. Under the reorganization: Miss Annie G. Albee, 1888; Miss Grace M. Blake, 1894; Miss Gladys Arnurius, 1904; Miss Kate P. Safford, 1909; Miss Georgia Cranston, 1931.

The Rev. Roscoe Nelson is President of the Association, Miss Agnes G. McCormick, Secretary, and Alfred W. Olds, Treasurer. The directors are: Miss Jennie Loomis, Mrs. Eustace Allen, Miss Emma L. Morgan, Mrs. Alvin L. Hubbard, Miss Kate P. Safford, and Daniel Howard representing the Association; Mrs. George N. Burnham, Mrs. Edward J. Kernan, Mrs. Clayton P. Chamberlin, Mrs. Waldo C. Everett, and Harold T. Nearing, elected by the town.



THE NEARING TROPHY

This cup was donated by Harold T. Nearing as a trophy for the champion baseball team of the Windsor Grammar Schools. It was won permanently by the H. Sidney Hayden School in 1932.



WINDSOR'S OLDEST HOME

The Entrance to the Home of the Windsor Historical Society

### The Windsor Historical Society

This Society whose primary purpose is to collect and preserve the evidence on which depends our knowledge of the life and history of Windsor, was organized in 1921. Its organization was very largely due to the enthusiasm and untiring efforts of one man, its first President, George E. Crosby, Jr., who is fully and justly entitled to be called the Father of the Windsor Historical Society. No better introduction to the history of the organization can be written than what is contained in his first annual report together with some extracts from the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society and part of the first Secretary's report. Therefore we reproduce these extracts from the Annual Report of the Society published in 1922.

#### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

##### Article I.—The Name and Object

1. The name of the organization is The Windsor Historical Society of Windsor, Conn.
2. The objects are:—
  - a. The collection and preservation of records, facts and materials relating to the history and to the citizens of Windsor.
  - b. The identification, preservation and marking of buildings and locations of historic interest.
  - c. The recording of current history for the benefit of future generations.
  - d. The publication of documents and pamphlets relating to Windsor.
  - e. The preparation for the observance of the Tercentenary of Windsor in 1933.

##### Article II.—Membership

1. The Society shall consist of Honorary, Active, Sustaining and Life members who shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society.
2. Any person who may have rendered important service to the Town of Windsor, the State of Connecticut, the cause of historic inquiry, or of literature generally may be elected an Honorary member of this Society.

3. Every application for membership shall be in writing, signed by the applicant, supported by at least one member of this Society and shall be accompanied by a fee equal to one year's dues for the class of membership desired. All applications for membership shall be read at a regular meeting, referred to the Executive Committee and may be balloted on at any regular meeting. Election shall be by the affirmative votes of two-thirds of the members present.

4. Annual dues will become payable on Sept. 26. Active members shall pay \$2.00; Sustaining members, \$5.00.

5. The payment of annual dues shall constitute a condition of membership; by neglect to pay the same for a period of six months after September 26, the right to vote at meetings of the Society shall be forfeited until such dues shall be paid.

6. Upon continued non-payment of dues for one year the delinquent names shall be reported to the Executive Committee and upon recommendation may be dropped from the roll.

7. Active or Sustaining members not in debt to the Society may become Life members on payment of \$20 at one time. Sustaining members shall be entitled to all publications of the Society free of charge.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In response to a newspaper announcement a small group met in the Windsor Town Hall on the evening of September 1, 1921, and formed a temporary organization with the writer as President and Mr. George R. Maude as Treasurer. The meeting adjourned to September 26th (the anniversary date O. S. of the arrival of the Plymouth settlers in 1633) and on that date a permanent organization was effected and the Charter Roll opened for signatures, the first name signed being that of Miss Frances Bissell. Our membership has grown rapidly since to a total of 276 and our progress and prosperity has exceeded greatly the anticipations of anyone.

We have had many gifts of books, manuscripts, autographs, documents, relics and curios, notably from George E. Hoadley of Hartford, a descendant of Owen Tudor of Windsor. His gifts form a special group to which we have given his name.

The first gift to our collection was from Mr. Thomas Brabazon of Hartford. We have made some purchases of rare genealogical or historical books and documents relating to Windsor and now have a really large and valuable collection which we endeavor to keep safely protected until such time as we may have a proper building to house it. Members may bear in mind that our genealogical books and records are available for use upon application to the Recorder. We will welcome gifts of this nature especially.

A committee consisting of Mrs. Editha L. G. Burr and Miss Frances Bissell are keeping a day-by-day newspaper clipping record of Windsor news which will be bound annually and provide material for future historians of our town.

We have lost highly esteemed friends by death, notably Hon. Lewis Sperry, one of our first Life members, who had shortly before presented us, in memory of his sister, Ruth T. Sperry, a beautifully bound set of Stiles' History of Windsor.

We have placed sign-boards at the Hartford and Windsor Locks highway entrances to Windsor and temporary markers of the sites of Mathew Grant's home, the old Warham Mill, the first church in Poquonock, etc. It is hoped to replace these with permanent markers in time.

We have had the nucleus of a fund for a Community House for Windsor placed in our custody through the activities and enterprise of the Windsor Council of Young People's Societies and the Junior Chautauqua, and have had an anonymous gift of two \$100 bonds presented specifically as the nucleus of a fund for the proper housing of the Society's collection. This proviso necessitated the distinction of separate funds, a fact that will not interfere with specific growth and use of either. It is to be hoped that by use of surplus funds or specific gifts we may establish during the coming year the fund for observance of Windsor's Tercentenary in 1933.

It has become important that we should seek a charter as a corporation of the incoming General Assembly.

We have had many interesting papers read at our meetings, some of which we hope to publish in due time. We have issued as No. 1 of the Society's publications, copies of an inter-

esting print of the "Old Hunting Tree" given us by Ruth Alden Curtis, a member.

In closing I wish to thank the Officers and Members and other friends for their support and encouragement, which I trust will be satisfactorily rewarded by the remarkable growth and progress of our Society.

GEORGE E. CROSBY, JR., President.

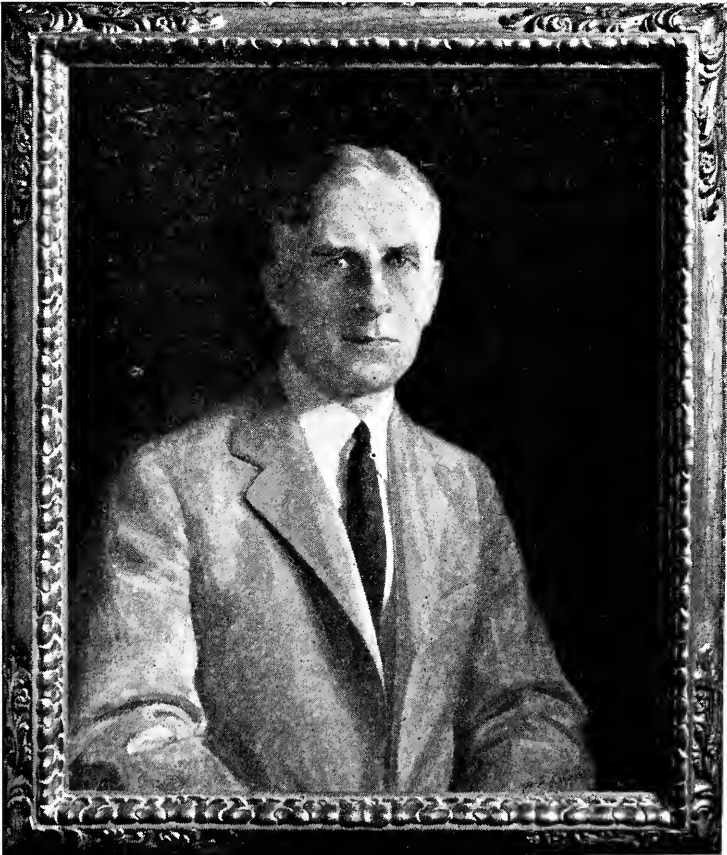


Photo by W. F. Miller & Co.

GEORGE ELLERY CROSBY, JR.

This portrait of the first President of the Society hangs in the Fyler House, home of the Windsor Historical Society. It was painted by Harold A. Green, a personal friend of Mr. Crosby.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the invitation of George E. Crosby, Jr., extended through the newspapers to all who might be interested, seventeen persons met at the Windsor Town hall, on the evening of September 1st for the purpose of forming a society for collecting manuscripts, documents, books, curios and relics; marking, preserving, and protecting places of historic interest relating to Windsor, and for the preparation of plans and funds for the Town's Tercentenary in 1933.

A temporary organization was formed with George E. Crosby, Jr., President and George R. Maude, Treasurer, under the name of The Windsor Historical Society. A committee of five members, Reverend L. Robert Sheffield, Mrs. Alexis D. Kendrick, Daniel Howard, Frederick L. Parker and John C. Conklin was appointed to bring recommendations for a constitution and by-laws to the next meeting, which it was voted should be held on September 26th, (this being the anniversary date Old Style, of the first settlement in Windsor in 1633,) in the Town Hall.

At this meeting the temporary organization was made permanent under the name of The Windsor Historical Society of Windsor, Connecticut, and the following were elected: George E. Crosby, Jr., President; L. Robert Sheffield, Vice-President; George R. Maude, Treasurer; Mrs. Ella Ellsworth Oakes, Secretary; and Frances Bissell and Mrs. Alexis D. Kendrick, members of Executive Committee.

During the year there have been six regular meetings. There have been three so-called pilgrimages, the first trip to locate the landing places of the original Bissell Ferry and the roads leading to them, followed by a ride across the Connecticut River at the present Bissell's Ferry on the ferry-boat "John Bissell." Across the river in East Windsor an enjoyable visit was made to the old Bissell House where we were delightfully welcomed and entertained by Mr. and Mrs. William Baker.

On January 14, 1922, many members attended an exhibit of special interest to Windsor, to which our Society was invited by State Librarian George S. Godard, an Honorary Member of

this Society. Mr. Godard addressed us most interestingly and the program provided was greatly enjoyed by everyone present.

On July 22d, 1922, a trip was made to Rainbow Park, Rainbow, delegations from the Simsbury Historical Society and the Winchester Historical Society attending as our guests. Professor Warren K. Moorehead, Curator of Archæology at Phillips Academy, and an honorary member of our Society, gave an informal talk on the progress of his pre-historic Indian research work in Connecticut. A number visited the site of the old iron smelter on the river bank opposite the Park. This was in operation as early as 1700, presumably to smelt ore from Tilton's Swamp near Simsbury.

Our Society was invited by the Winchester Historical Society of Winsted, Conn., to meet at their headquarters, with the Simsbury Historical Society on September 8, 1922, and a good delegation attended and enjoyed greatly the hospitality and entertainment provided.

During the year we have heard many interesting and valuable addresses. At our first regular meeting, Mr. Willard C. Gompf read a paper on "Old Windsor" representing much patient and original research work. At our second meeting Miss C. Louise Dickerman, Supervisor of Music of the Windsor Public Schools, read a delightful paper on "Singers and Singing in Former Days," six boys and six girls in Colonial costume illustrating the methods and tunes as the speaker referred to them. At our third meeting Professor Moorehead addressed us on the general subject of his discoveries and studies of Indian remains in New England. His story was splendidly told and illustrated by excellent screen views.

At our fourth meeting Mr. Charles R. Hale of Hartford, gave a valuable account of "The Soldiers Buried in the Cemeteries of Windsor." He exhibited and later presented to the Society maps of all Windsor cemeteries showing the location of soldiers' graves. At this meeting Mr. David J. Ellsworth of Windsor gave most interestingly his reminiscences of the people and homes of Palisado Avenue, Windsor, during his 82 years of his residence there.



At our fifth meeting Colonel Francis Parsons of Hartford read a most enjoyable paper on "The Hartford Wits—Their Ambitions and Their Friendships." Following his paper Mr. David J. Ellsworth read a supplementary paper on his reminiscences of Palisado Avenue dwellings and their occupants.

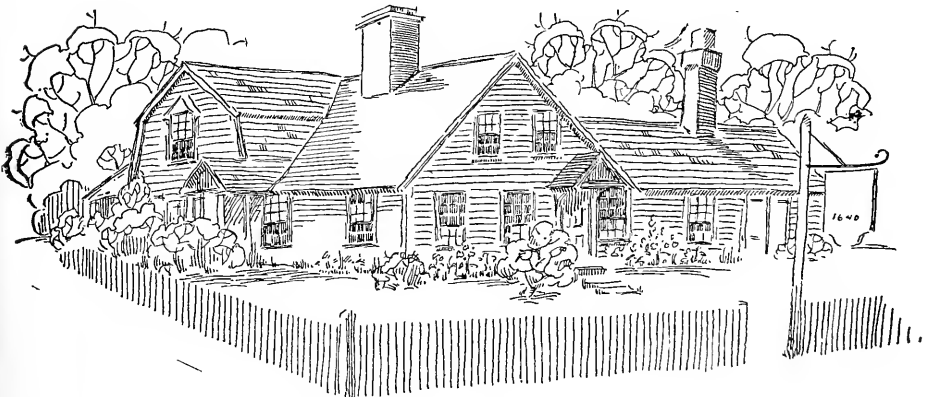
On February 24th and 25th, 1922, a pageant by Miss Leila Church of Rockville, and called "The Magic Carpet" was given by the Windsor Community Council of Young People's Societies the profits of which were given to this Society as the nucleus of a Fund to be known as The Windsor Historical Society Community House Fund. An anonymous gift of two \$100 bonds was also given to establish The Windsor Historical Society Building Fund.

ELLA ELLSWORTH OAKES, Secretary.

September 26, 1922.

During the second year of its existence the Society received a bequest of \$5,000 by the will of George E. Hoadley of Hartford and in compliance with a request contained in that will became an Incorporated Society.

Following the death of two friends of the Society, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Denslow, the Society came into possession of their home in 1925 and made it the official headquarters. This home on Palisado Avenue was built by Sergeant Walter Fyler as early as 1640 and is the oldest dwelling house in Windsor.



THE LIEUTENANT WALTER FYLER HOUSE

The house passed by will to John Fyler, son of the builder, from whom it passed to Thomas Fyler and was afterwards owned in turn by Alexander Allin, Captain Nathaniel Howard, Miss Lucretia Stiles and her sisters, Mrs. William S. Pierson, and Miss Olive Pierson, who made it a wedding present to Frank H. Denslow, from whose estate it was purchased by the Society May 1, 1925.

With the contributions made at this time by generous friends of the Society there was established a "Fund for the Purchase, Restoration, and Endowment of the Lieutenant Walter Fyler Homestead and the administration of the Fund" was entrusted to a special committee of the Society. For a time the home was operated as the "Betsy Kob Tea Room" with Miss Elizabeth Kob and Miss Josephine Hughes serving as hostesses.

In November, 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse G. Dugan, Jr., became the tenants of the Society and have since that date occupied the Fyler Homestead and received the many guests that visit it in the course of every year. Besides the house itself the many relics of early days that have found a shelter there prove attractive to visitors. In one corner of the house is the little room that served as the first post office in Windsor.



THE BEAM ROOM IN THE FYLER HOME

On October 12, 1928, the members of the Society as well as the whole community were saddened by the death of President Crosby. His work, however, was taken up and carried on with vigor by the Vice-president, Mr. Charles H. Willcox.

On January 21, 1930, Mr. Willcox was elected the second President of the Society and held office until the annual election of officers on September 26, 1930, when failing health and the burdens of preparation for the Tercentenary Celebration planned for 1933, led him to decline a reelection and Daniel Howard was elected President and served until the completion of the Tercentenary program on September 26, 1933, when Philip F. Ellsworth was elected the third President, who is now serving his second term.

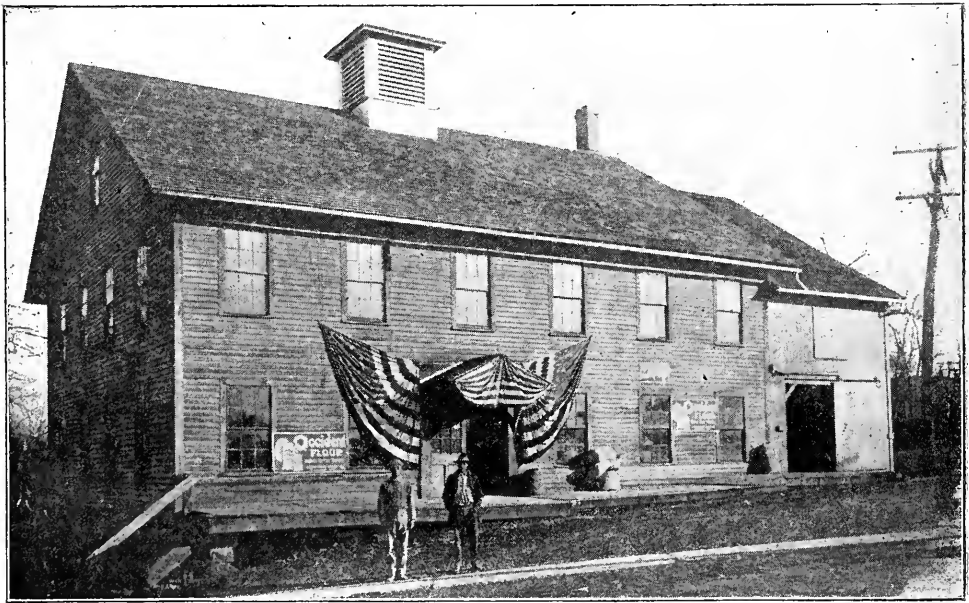
Many valuable gifts have been made to the Society, notable among them being the Hoadley bequest already mentioned and the bequest of One Thousand Dollars (awaiting administration proceedings) by the will of Philip G. Gorton of Hartford, a descendant of the early Griswolds, a family prominent in the history of the town and the state.

From the estate of Mr. Wells F. Holcomb of Elm Grove the Society received a valuable collection of Indian relics and other articles of historic value. A long list of other gifts have come from a host of friends and many books and documents have been acquired by purchase. To store all these and others known to be available as soon as a suitable fireproof house can be provided for their protection, the Society has for several years had plans for an historical museum and depository of records and documents. The erection of the building awaits an increase in funds to make this ambition a reality.

The roll of membership for 1935 has the names of 254 active, sustaining, and honorary members.

The following is the list of officers for the year beginning September 26, 1934: President, Philip F. Ellsworth; Vice-President, Leslie H. Hayes; Secretary, Ruth D. Tuttle; Treasurer, Leland P. Wilson; Recorder, A. G. Dugan, Jr.; Assistant Recorder, William S. Leek; Executive Committee, the Officers and Daniel Howard, Miss Alice Morgan, Clayton P. Cham-

berlin; Fyler House and Grounds Committee, Chairman, Mrs. J. H. Smiley; Program Committee, Chairman, Mrs. Alvin L. Hubbard; Permanent Building Committee, Chairman, Clayton P. Chamberlin; Membership Committee, Chairman, Miss Marguerite Mills, Station 11, Windsor, Conn.



THE OLD "CORN MILL"—Continually in use since 1640

This old mill shares with the historic Fyler House the distinction of being already built and mentioned on the town records in 1640 at the time home-lots and other tracts of land were distributed to the original settlers.

# Churches

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## The First Church of Windsor

The First Church of Windsor has the distinction of being the oldest Congregational Church in America. It was organized in Plymouth, England, on March 20, 1630, just before its members sailed for Massachusetts on the good ship *Mary and John*. In the years 1635 and 1636 a majority of the members came with their pastor, John Warham, and settled near the present Palisado Green in Windsor. Thus the Church is older than the town and it celebrated its Tercentenary Anniversary in 1930.

The first meeting house was built in 1639. Its site is marked by an appropriate monument erected in 1930 by the Connecticut Branch of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims. A second house of worship was built on the same site in 1685. The third built in 1757 stood on the triangular green west of the present Congregational Parish House at the head of Broad Street.

While the third building was in use there was a division of the church society caused in part at least by the removal

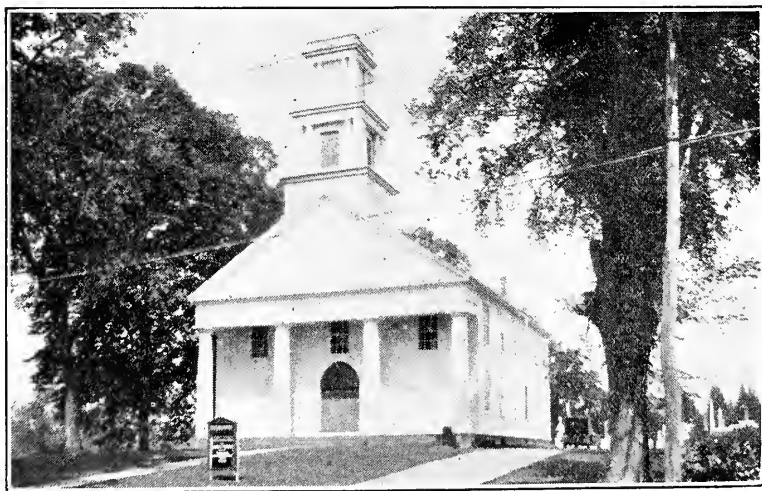


The Church built in 1794, and the Covered Bridge built in 1833

of the meeting house from the north side of the Farmington River. Those who preferred to attend Church on the north side built their own meeting house on the west side of the road about a mile and a quarter north of the old meeting house. This house is now used as a dwelling and was for many years until recently the home of Mr. Fred A. West.

In 1794 the two wings of the Church united and built the present meeting house on the north bank of the Farmington River. The house was reconstructed in 1844 practically as it stands today.

The history of this Church is so closely interwoven with the history of the town during the first two hundred years of its existence that the reader will doubtless be interested in a review that goes somewhat into details. Such a review, giving much that is strictly church history and much also that is town history, may be found in the admirable addresses given on historic occasions by local historians and distinguished students of the history of the Church and town. The essentially historic portions of these addresses will be found reproduced in this book under the caption "Celebrations."



THE FIRST CHURCH OF WINDSOR  
From a photograph taken in 1933.

### The Poquonock Congregational Church

On October 1, 1724, Poquonock was incorporated as a separate parish and three years later the new society had erected a meeting house on the west side of the road near the home recently occupied by the late Wells F. Holcomb. During a part of 1725 and 1726 the members of the society had preaching services conducted by a clergyman whom they expected to engage as a settled pastor but in 1726 they changed their minds and dropped him. What other complaints they had we do not know but one charge was that his sermons were too short. In May, 1727, Cornelius Brown testified that he had urged the minister "to apply himself to his work and lengthen out his sermons, that if possible he might gain disaffected persons." The minister had replied that he was not concerned about the length of his sermons. If they were only "orthodox they were long enough for Poquonock."

The first settled pastor was the Rev. John Woodbridge, who graduated from Yale in 1726, came to take charge of the church in 1727, and remained until 1736.

For four years the church was without a regular minister. In January, 1740, the Rev. Samuel Tudor, another Yale graduate, whose birthplace was Windsor, became the second pastor and remained with the church almost to the time of his death, which occurred September 21, 1757, at South Windsor.

For fourteen years the church was without a pastor and preaching was conducted only at long intervals by visiting clergymen. Some members expressed a wish to unite with the parish in Wintonbury, others recommended a return to the parent church, while still others favored the dissolution of the society.

However, on January 14, 1771, thirty-six citizens of Poquonock pledged themselves to raise the sum of "Sixty Pounds Lawful Money" per annum to support a minister. Their effort to revive the church resulted in the engagement of Mr. Dan Foster of Stafford as the third pastor of the society, which in June, 1771, comprised twenty-four members.

Mr. Foster was ordained on May 12, 1771. His father, the Rev. Isaac Foster of Stafford, preached the ordination sermon.

One brief document has been preserved, which helps us form some conception of the hospitality of that historic occasion. It was written two days after the ordination and reads:

May, 14th Day, 1771.

The Second Society of Windsor, Dr., to Thomas Griswold.  
At ordination on ye 12th Day of May Instant—

|  | £ | s  | d | v |
|--|---|----|---|---|
| To two gallons of wine at 7s pr gallon           | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| To fifty-one meals of victuals at 9 <sup>d</sup> | 1 | 18 | 3 | 0 |
| To twelve mugs of flip at 9 <sup>d</sup> pr mug  | 0 | 9  | 0 | 0 |
| To keeping horses                                | 0 | 3  | 0 | 0 |
| To warning a Society Meeting in 1761             |   | 0  | 9 |   |
|  | 3 | 5  | 0 | 0 |

Thomas Griswold.

The society was in a generous mood and increased the minister's salary beyond the expected sixty pounds and promised to pay him one hundred seventy-seven pounds and two shillings to cover a period of two years.

The Rev. Dan Foster continued as pastor of the Poquonock Church for twelve years. Till 1779 there appears to have been no serious conflict between him and his congregation and church officers, but in that year he complained that he had not received what was due him in salary and support. For about four years there were charges and counter charges, councils of the associated churches to settle the controversy, and discord and friction in the society. Finally on October 23, 1783, the Rev. Dan Foster was dismissed as pastor of the Poquonock Church. Later he preached in Weathersfield, Vermont, where he became a Universalist and was again dismissed. He next went to Charlestown, New Hampshire, where he served as a supply preacher for several years.

The Church never secured another pastor tho it continued to hold services, which were conducted for the most part by ministers from other Churches.

A second meeting house was built at a date which has not been found on record, but which was between 1797 and 1801. This house stood on the west side of Poquonock Avenue



opposite the Elm Grove Cemetery. After a few years it became a Universalist Church.

From 1835 to 1841 there was preaching by Congregational ministers in a hall at Rainbow. These services were conducted for one year by the Rev. David Austin Sherman, about four years by preachers from the Theological Institute at East Windsor, and from the Spring of 1840 to the Spring of



Photo by Leek

THE POQUONOCK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1841 by the Rev. Mr. Hempstead of Hartford and the Rev. John R. Adams, who also preached in the schoolhouse at Poquonock.

On June 2, 1841, a new Church was organized with thirty-nine members. Until 1854 the congregation worshiped in Franklin Hall and at other places in Poquonock and Rainbow. In the Spring of 1854 the present Church edifice was completed and dedicated.

Since 1841 the pastors have been:

- 1841 John R. Adams from June 2 until October 31  
Chauncey Rice until February 13, 1842
- 1842 Cornelius B. Everest
- 1854 Thomas H. Rouse
- 1857 Henry J. Lamb
- 1859 Ogden Hall
- 1861 Charles H. Bessell
- 1865 Josiah Peabody
- 1868 Nathaniel G. Bonney
- 1873 William H. Phipps
- 1877 Silas Ketchum
- 1880 William H. Howard
- 1882 Charles H. Pettibone
- 1889 Nathan Tibbals Merwin
- 1898 William Carlos Prentiss
- 1902 Edward O. Grisbrook
- 1907 William Carr
- 1922 Victor L. Greenwood

The present Church membership is 190. The Sunday School averages about 65. The Ladies' Benevolent Society contributes largely to the work of the Church and there is an active young people's organization.

### **The Methodists in Windsor**

In Windsor as elsewhere in Connecticut before the year 1818, Methodists were not welcomed by the Established Order. Nevertheless Methodist preachers came to the town as early as 1790 and their work has continued without interruption. The little group that was organized in that year met mostly in the homes of the members and sometimes in schoolhouses,

and their first ministers served one or more other congregations in towns farther north and east, particularly in Ellington, Stafford and Tolland. To escape taxation by the Established Order they were obliged to sign a certificate like the following:

Windsor Dec<sup>br</sup> 4th 1817

I would certify according as the Law directs that I belong to the Methodist Society in Windsor.

Dyer Harris

On January 13, 1823, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Windsor was organized at the home of Elisha Strong and on September 5 following a site for a building was purchased. This building lot was on the east side of Broad Street Green north of Central Street. The Church edifice was soon completed and the new society was formally installed in its new home.



Photo by Leek

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This building, which was twice remodeled, continued to house the society until 1907, when it was sold to William H. H. Mason and a new building was erected at the junction of Poquonock and Bloomfield Avenues. This new Church was partially destroyed by fire on Sunday, December 10, 1922, but was rebuilt during the following winter and spring and reopened for services on June 10, 1923.

In this rebuilt and renovated home the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church of Windsor—for so it had been renamed in 1921—celebrated the Tercentenary of its birth on November 1, 2 and 4, 1923.



Photo by Leek

#### TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Its ministers from 1790 to 1935 according to the Church Historical Record have been:

- 1790 Nathaniel B. Mills
- 1791 Lemuel Smith
- 1792 George Roberts
- 1793 George Pickering
- 1794 Joshua Taylor

- 
- 1795 Lemuel Smith  
1796 Joseph Morehouse  
1797 Daniel Bromley  
1798 Ezekiel Canfield  
1799 Peter Jayne  
1800 Billy Hibbard  
1801 Timothy Dewey  
1802 Ebenezer Washburn  
1804 Joshua Crowell  
1805 Eben Smith  
1807 Nathan Emery  
1808 Laban Clark  
1809 Gershom Pearce  
1811 Friend Draper  
1812 Reuben Harris  
1814 Cyrus Culver  
1816 Billy Hibbard  
1818 Cyrus Culver  
1819 Coles Carpenter  
1821 Andrew McCain  
1822 Cyrus Culver  
1823 Phinehas Cook  
1825 Tobias Spicer  
1826 David Miller  
1827 Elbert Osborn  
1829 Smith Dayton  
1831 Edwin E. Griswold  
1833 David Miller  
1834 Nathaniel Kellogg  
1836 Eli Denniston  
1838 David Osborn  
1839 Cephas Brainerd  
1840 Ezra S. Cook  
1842 Seth W. Scofield  
1844 Joseph Henson  
1846 George F. Kettell  
1847 Samuel A. Seaman  
1848 Samuel W. Law  
1850 Rufus K. Reynolds

- 1851 Horatio N. Weed
- 1853 William H. Russell
- 1854 John W. Simpson
- 1856 William F. Smith
- 1858 Isaac Sanford
- 1860 Henry D. Latham
- 1861 Andrew K. Crawford
- 1862 Scofield C. Lamb
- 1864 Nathan W. Wilder
- 1865 William E. Smith
- 1867 John Russell Cushing
- 1868 Robert W. Jones
- 1871 George B. Dusingberre
- 1873 Isaac E. Smith
- 1874 John Cromlish
- 1876 William Wake
- 1878 Joseph O. Munson
- 1880 David Nash
- 1883 David G. Downey
- 1885 Reubin H. Loomis
- 1887 George A. Graves
- 1889 Edward L. Bray
- 1892 William H. Kidd
- 1894 M. O. Lepley
- 1896 A. C. Willey
- 1897 E. O. Tree
- 1900 A. C. Eggleston
- 1901 J. F. Dunkerke
- 1903 Warren French Sheldon
- 1905 W. N. Fanton
- 1907 George B. Dusingberre
- 1910 George W. Roesch
- 1911 Halford E. Luccock
- 1913 John Lee Brooks
- 1914 Irving M. Anderson
- 1916 William B. Cornish
- 1918 John Lee Brooks
- 1919 Jesse D. Roberts
- 1921 Wilmot Perkins Lord

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|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 1924 | R. Stanley Povey     |
| 1926 | Arch Tremayne        |
| 1928 | Duncan F. Dodd       |
| 1933 | Donald H. Dorchester |

In the early years more than one minister participated in the preaching. We have recorded for each year the one whom we judged to be the leader.

The present membership of the Church is 292; the Sunday School enrolls 121; the Ladies' Aid Society numbers 52; the Fireside Club composed of young married women has a limited membership of 35; the Men's Club, which is a civic forum and cultural assembly for the men of the community, is well attended not only by Methodists but by members of other Churches.

### **The Universalists**

About the time of the dismissal of the Rev. Dan Foster from the Congregational Church at Elm Grove many of his congregation became sympathetic toward the doctrines of the Universalists and some years later a majority became Universalists and continued to occupy the second meeting house built between 1797 and 1801. They repaired the meeting house in 1837 but later when further repairs were needed it was decided to sell the building. It was torn down and the lumber used to build other buildings, one of which stood until a few years ago on the Marshall farm a short distance from the original site of the meeting house. The society continued to hold meetings until about twenty years ago. When the society was given up its funds were donated for the building of a mortuary chapel at Elm Grove.

### **Grace Church**

During the eighteenth century there was no organized body of the Episcopalians with a place of worship in the town of Windsor. Those who wished to be associated with the Episcopal Church found a welcome in neighboring towns. Many of them joined the church in Simsbury. The following is a typical certificate signed by one who wished to escape taxation by the Established Order and contribute to the support of another church.

I Chester Barber of Windsor living within the located bounds of Poquonock Society have this first day of April 1797 joined the Episcopal Church in Simsbury called St. Andrew's and lodge this certificate as evidence.

Chester Barber

It was not until 1842 that the Episcopalians began to hold services in Windsor. The official records of the Episcopal Church at Windsor Center open with these words:

"Upon the seventh day of August in the year of our Lord 1842, Sunday, the eleventh after Trinity the Reverend Arthur Cleaveland Coxe, Rector of St. John's Church, Hartford, celebrated Divine Service in Windsor, Connecticut, Second District from Hartford, in the schoolhouse of that District.

It being desired that further services should be held in Windsor, Divine Service was appointed for Wednesday evening August 17th, 1842, in the schoolhouse of the Third District from Hartford."

On November 27th following they moved into the hall of the Academy at the head of Broad Street and the first morning service was held. In the evening of the following 7th of December the congregation appointed Henry Halsey, Chairman, and Thomas Scott Preston, Secretary, and passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that it is expedient to organize in this place an Ecclesiastical Society in communion with the Bishop and Diocese of Connecticut." Four days later (December 11th, 1842) the record reads: "A Sunday School was this day fully organized and systematized by the blessing of God." On the evening of December 14th, 1842, the group organized under the name of St. Gabriel's Church, Windsor. Eight persons subscribed to the articles by which this organization was created. They were: Isaac Underhill, George Spalding, Fitch Bissell, John Spencer, Longworth Smith, Quartus Bedortha, Samuel O. Loomis, Henry A. Bliss. The Rev. A. Cleaveland Coxe became the first Missionary Pastor.

May 13, 1843, it was voted to ascertain the expense of purchasing land and erecting a building. On the following 6th of November the corner stone of a church edifice was laid by Bishop Thomas Church Brownell. The deed of the land



on which this edifice was to stand was obtained from Job Allyn, May 28, 1844. On January 15th, 1845, Bishop Brownell and thirteen clergymen consecrated St. Gabriel's Church. By 1853 the membership of the society had grown to a number that caused agitation for a new building or the enlargement of the old one. After several years land was obtained from H. Sidney Hayden on the corner of Broad Street and Island Road and on August 2nd, 1864, the corner stone of the present church building was laid and the name of the society was changed to Grace Church.

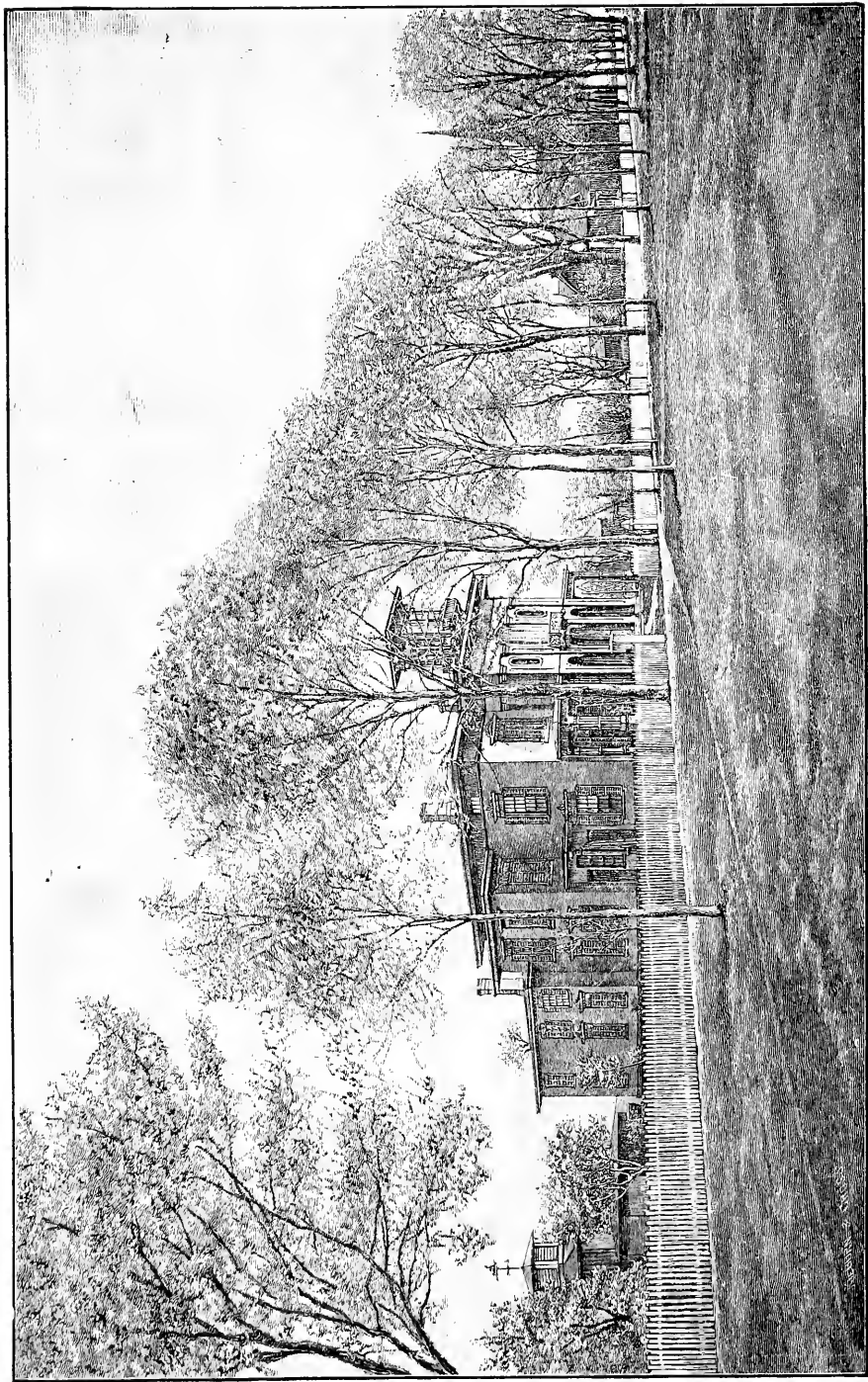
The building was finished and consecrated by Bishop John Williams on September 13, 1865. A committee consisting of H. Sidney Hayden, L. M. Smith, and Albert Morrison was appointed and authorized to sell the old St. Gabriel's building. On November 1, 1865, they sold it to the Rev. James Smyth, Rector of St. Mary's Church of Windsor Locks, for Two Thousand Dollars.

The following have served as pastors :

|   |      |
|---|------|
| The Rev. Arthur Cleaveland Coxe, Missionary Pastor,<br>beginning in | 1843 |
| The Rev. William B. Corbin, first Resident Rector                   | 1844 |
| The Rev. William Payne, Missionary Rector                           | 1845 |
| The Rev. A. Nichols   | 1849 |
| The Rev. James Rankin   | 1850 |
| The Rev. Goodwin  | 1854 |
| The Rev. Reuel H. Tuttle  | 1860 |
| No pastor from July 10, 1870 to April, 1871                         |      |
| The Rev. Benjamin Judkins, Jr.                                      | 1871 |
| The Rev. James B. Goodrich  | 1880 |
| The Rev. Frederick W. Harriman                                      | 1886 |
| The Rev. L. Robert Sheffield  | 1920 |
| The Rev. Wilfrid L. Greenwood                                       | 1927 |
| The Rev. Howard F. Dunn   | 1933 |

The present membership of the church is 240.

The Sunday School has an enrollment of 115.



GRACE CHURCH AND THE HOME OF THE LATE H. SIDNEY HAYDEN

### St. Joseph's Church

In order to understand the establishment and growth of St. Joseph's Church it will be helpful to begin with the work of the Catholics in Windsor Locks and the establishment of St. Mary's Church of which St. Joseph's was formerly a mission.

According to the historians of the Church the first known official visit of a priest to the town of Windsor occurred in 1827 during the building of the Locks Canal. In that year the Very Rev. John Power, Vicar-General of New York, visited the canal workmen to administer the rites of the Church to one or more stricken laborers. Having performed this service he then invited the Catholics among the workmen to assemble in the open air to participate in the service of the Mass.

This first visit paved the way for many more and Father Power, the Rev. R. D. Woodley, the Rev. B. O'Cavanagh, Fathers Fitton, Kiernan, Walsh, Brady and others made the settlement at the Locks the object of their missionary care, coming from New York and Hartford, until 1852 when the Rev. Hugh Carmody, D. D., was appointed pastor of this and other missions.

The Rev. Dr. Carmody was succeeded after a few months by the Rev. James Smyth who took up his permanent residence at the Locks on June 24, 1852. On August 17 of the same year ground was broken for a church edifice, the corner stone was laid on September 14, following, and on Easter Sunday, 1853, Mass was celebrated in the new building which with some changes and enlargement is the St. Mary's Church of 1935.

During the long pastorate of Father Smyth, which continued until his death on May 16, 1874, the mission at Poquonock which later became the parish of St. Joseph's, grew rapidly.

Work had been started at Poquonock by the Rev. Father Brady in 1848. In 1852 Father Smyth secured the Holy Name hall for a meeting place and services were conducted there until 1887 when the present commodious structure was erected

during the pastorate of the Rev. James O'R. Sheridan at St. Mary's.



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, POQUONOCK

In 1892 St. Joseph's became a separate parish, and St. Gabriel's Church at Windsor Center, which, like St. Joseph's, had been until then a mission of the church at Windsor Locks, became a mission of St. Joseph's and retained this relationship until 1921, when it, too, became a separate parish.

Since St. Joseph's was given its autonomy in August, 1892, it has been served by the following pastors:

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| The Rev. John Fleming     | 1892 to 1898 |
| The Rev. Thomas Shanley   | 1898 to 1900 |
| The Rev. Francis J. Lally | 1900 to 1911 |

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| The Rev. John J. Fitzgerald | 1911 to 1916 |
| The Rev. John F. Quinn      | 1916 to 1921 |
| The Rev. Edward J. Plunkett | 1921 to 1930 |
| The Rev. Patrick L. Dolan   | 1930 to      |

Since July 2, 1934, owing to the absence of Father Dolan in connection with other duties, the care of the parish has been in the hands of the Rev. Joseph A. Healey. The number of parishioners under his ministrations is over 700. The enrollment in the parish Sunday School is 167.

### St. Gabriel's Church

The history of St. Gabriel's Church, like the history of St. Joseph's, was intimately connected with St. Mary's Church of Windsor Locks during the many years when it was a mission of the older parish. There is an early period in its history, however, which merits special mention. Records preserved in the Kennedy family, which has always been one of the most active supporters of the work of this organization, show that the first Mass to be celebrated within the territory of the present day Windsor took place in the home of Mr. John Hickey, which stood just north of the Bissell Ferry Road on the east side of Palisado Avenue. The date of this first Mass was sometime in the year 1843.



ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH—Purchased in 1865

The home of Mr. Hickey is no longer standing, but his granddaughter, Miss Katherine J. Kennedy, preserved an excellent picture of it, now in the possession of the Rev. John F. Quinn, from which the accompanying reproduction was made. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. James Smyth from



Home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hickey where mass  
was first celebrated in 1843

Windsor Locks. Mass was often celebrated in the home of the Hickey family before a regular place of worship was established. For a time services were held in the Academy building, which stood where the Congregational Parish House now stands. Then on November 1, 1865, the Rev. James Smyth bought from a committee representing the Episcopalians of Windsor their former house of worship and the mission of St. Gabriel's was firmly established. (The history of the building of this original St. Gabriel's edifice is told in some detail in the article on the Episcopal Church and the record

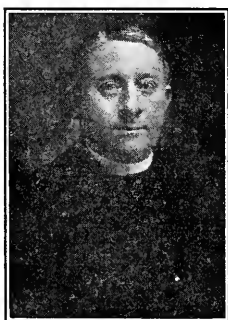
of the sale may be found in the Windsor Land Records, Vol. 46, page 248.)

From 1865 to 1892 both St. Gabriel's and St. Joseph's were missions of the Windsor Locks parish. When St. Joseph's was made a full fledged parish in the latter year, St. Gabriel's became a mission of the Poquonock parish and remained so until 1921.



ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH

In the meantime, during the pastorate of the Rev. John J. Fitzgerald, the mission disposed of the old edifice and constructed the present beautiful church on lower Broad Street, which was completed in 1915. In 1916 the Rev. John F. Quinn succeeded Father Fitzgerald as pastor at Poquonock and had charge of this mission at Windsor Center until 1921 when St. Gabriel's became an independent parish. A home for a rectory was purchased adjoining the church property on the south and Father Quinn moved into this new parish. It has continued to grow and prosper since that date.



THE REV. JOHN F. QUINN  
Pastor of St. Gabriel's Church

In December, 1922, twenty-five years after his ordination as a priest on December 18, 1897, Father Quinn celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the new church, which was crowded not only with his own parishioners but with many friends from churches of other denominations in the town, by a Solemn High Mass with himself as celebrant.

The Rev. Michael Lynch of Hartford was Deacon. The Rev. Simon Forestier, M. S., of Hartford, was Sub-Deacon. The Rev. James Q. Dolan of Tariffville, a classmate of Father Quinn, preached the eulogy. Special music was rendered by the choir under the direction of Mrs. Earl U. Richmond, the organist.

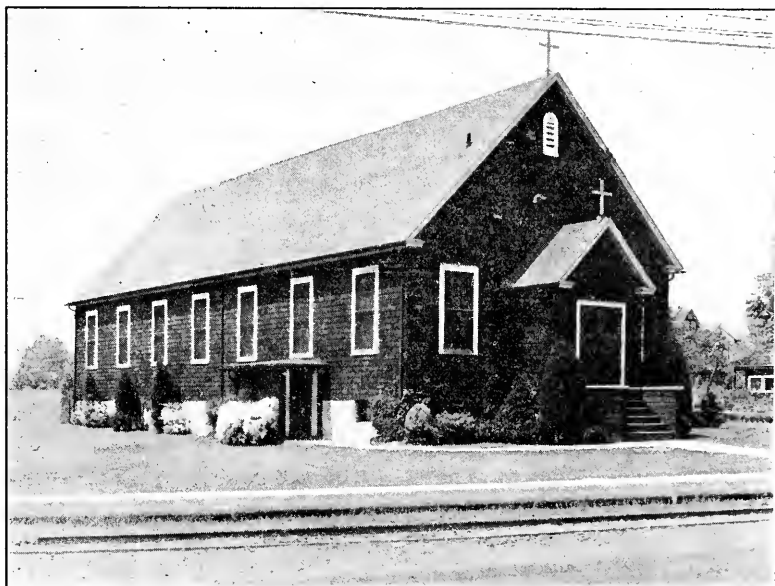
The parishioners in 1935 number 800. The church Sunday School has an enrollment of 140. Father Quinn has also established an annual vacation school.



### St. Gertrude's Church

Before the year 1928 the Catholic members of the community at Wilson were a part of St. Gabriel's parish and attended services at Windsor Center. Father Quinn of St. Gabriel's also at times held classes for instruction and carried on educational work with the young people of Wilson in the Roger Wolcott School. The growth of the population, the distance from Windsor Center, and the heavy burdens resting on the pastor, led to the establishment of a separate mission at Wilson which was organized in 1928 and has since been attended from St. Thomas' Seminary.

A fine frame construction building was soon erected on the corner of Windsor Avenue and Fanuel Street to take care of the Catholic population of Wilson. The new mission was named St. Gertrude's.



ST. GERTRUDE'S CHURCH—Erected in 1928

The church was dedicated on Sunday, August 5, 1928, by the Rt. Rev. John J. Nilan, D. D., assisted by the Very Rev. Msgr. William Flynn, Chancellor of the Diocese. The Rev.

John F. Quinn of St. Gabriel's Church read the Mass and made the announcements. The Rt. Rev. Bishop preached on the "Mission of the Church" to the 300 persons in attendance.

Sunday services were under the care of Msgr. Flynn and the Rev. Francis P. Keough (now Bishop of Providence) from August 12, to September 2, 1928.

On the following 9th of September the Rev. Raymond G. LaFontaine of St. Thomas' Seminary was made administrator of the mission.

Father LaFontaine, whose studies had been carried on at the Norwich Free Academy, St. Thomas' Seminary, Hartford, Conn., St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, and the Sulpician Seminary of the Catholic University, Washington, D. C., was ordained a priest on April 19, 1927, appointed chaplain of St. Francis Hospital at Hartford, and made a member of the staff of St. Thomas' Seminary in January, 1928. On his appointment to St. Gertrude's he immediately took up the work at Wilson, prosecuted it with success and now has an attending congregation of about 700 and a Church Sunday School with an enrollment of 250. An annual vacation school has also been established.

### **The Baptists in Windsor**

About 1750 many, who were dissatisfied with the forced system of taxation then in operation for the support of the established or Congregational Church, revolted and joined or created other church organizations. Some of these became Baptists. They built a meeting house on Poquonock Avenue near the point where the avenue is joined by the Pigeon Hill Road. Several clergymen served this church, the last of whom was the Rev. Frederic Chapman. To escape the taxation imposed upon them by the established church, dissenters were obliged to file a certificate like the following:

Windsor, Dec. 5th, 1817.

I now certify according as the law requireth that I belong to the Baptist Society in Windsor.

Hezh H. Palmer.

A Baptist Society was later organized at Rainbow. Previous to 1867 services had been held there occasionally thru the encouragement and support of Mr. George L. Hodge. In that year services became regular thru the aid of the Second Baptist Church of Suffield and their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Ives. The Rev. W. F. Hansell, D. D., became pastor of the organization in 1870. The Rev. W. K. Dean served from July, 1876 to June 6, 1878. The Rev. A. S. Burrows was pastor from October 1, 1878, until June, 1881. The Rev. G. W. Hinckley assumed charge on November 1, 1881.

The organization was officially recognized as a Baptist Church on May 18, 1875, and four years later built a chapel in which to worship. The first service in this new home was held February 14, 1879. On July 8, 1880 the building was dedicated.

After about 1893, due to removal of many of its members, the church ceased to hold regular services and on August 27, 1900, their chapel was sold to the Community Church at Wilson and removed to that place.

### **The Wilson Community Church**

The religious activities which resulted in the organization of the Community Church at Wilson began in February, 1853, when Mrs. Susan A. Wilson and Mrs. Luther Barber interested George A. Hunn, Frederick Hills, and Enos J. Cornwell in a project to conduct a Sunday School and evening meetings in the old brick, gambrel-roofed schoolhouse situated on the east side of Windsor Avenue opposite Pipeswamp Road (now Wolcott Avenue).

Few people supported their efforts while some actively opposed them, but under the leadership of Mr. Hunn services were continued in the old schoolhouse until 1856 when the new schoolhouse (now standing in the rear of the four-room building) was built. In spite of violent opposition this building was made a two-story structure, thus providing an upstairs hall which could be used as a place of worship. Here Mr. Hunn continued to serve as leader until 1863, when Judge Heman H. Barber took his place and carried on until 1865. For three years supply speakers were obtained from Hartford.

Mr. Homer Hastings supplied during 1868. From 1869 to 1891 Mr. Horace E. Cooley was the leader. The Rev. Andrew J. Culver served from July, 1891 to July, 1893; William J. Wood, until October, 1894; the Rev. Frank V. Mills, until January, 1895; students from the Hartford Theological Seminary, until 1902.

In 1900 an association was formed and incorporated under the name of the Wilson Christian Union Association. In August of that year this association purchased of the Rainbow Baptist Society their chapel, built in 1879 but unused after 1893 because of the removal of many members of the Baptist organization.

A lot was purchased and this building was moved to it and made into the church edifice that continues to serve as the home of the Community Church, whose organization was completed in 1902.



THE WILSON COMMUNITY CHURCH

The committee that drafted its covenant and by-laws consisted of a Congregationalist, a Methodist, a Baptist, an Episcopalian, and a Lutheran. Persons of other denominations have been welcomed as members and leaders and the community spirit has always predominated. The pastors since 1902 have been :

- 1902 George W. Owen
- 1903 Charles S. Gray
- 1906 Frederick F. Voorhees
- 1909 Elbert C. Lane
- 1921 Thomas R. Kelly
- 1924 Walter T. Aiken
- 1925 Charles R. Vickery
- 1928 Leslie Durand Shaffer
- 1931 Howard A. Seymour
- 1933 Frederick H. Thompson

The following is the list of incorporators who formed the association in the year 1900: Samuel H. Wilson, Leland P. Wilson, Flavel W. Woodworth, Mattie S. Woodworth, Eliza P. Wilson, Frederick N. Wilson, E. Belle Wilson, O. P. Clark, Hattie J. Clark, Mary R. Armitage, C. A. Armitage, Grace S. Barrows, Henrietta A. Peck, Lois M. Wetmore, F. Louise Barber, Helen T. Lomax, Christian Meier, Anna M. Stone, Clara L. Stone, Helen W. Morrison, W. Irving Morse, Mrs. Emma Morse, H. E. Wetmore, W. S. Pierce, Mary L. Phelps, Bertha S. Macfarlane, Addie M. Marble, George Meier, Fred J. Gray, Bennie Morrison, Lewis Sikes, Ursula D. Sykes, John E. Morrison, S. M. Morrison, Gertrude Morrison, A. H. Chamberlin, Annie L. Chamberlin, Grace S. Rodgers, David L. Whittlesey, Edna B. E. Whittlesey, E. M. Stone, Willard Stone.

The present membership list contains 180 names. The Sunday School has an enrollment of over 200. This school has the remarkable record of having had only six superintendents in eighty-eight years. The present superintendent, Leland P. Wilson, has served since 1901. For several years the church has conducted an annual vacation school in the month of July.

### **Bethany Pentecostal Church**

The Church of the Bethany Pentecostal Assembly of Number 12 Windsor Avenue, Wilson, was built in 1920. This building stands on the east side of the avenue but a few feet from the Hartford line. It is now the headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving both Hartford and Windsor.

### **Hayden Station Social Club**

This club, the center of the social life of Hayden Station, is one of the most active in the town. Organized on October 26, 1887, it flourished from the beginning and soon erected an attractive and commodious club house on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Osborne. By 1893 this building was paid for and the club was free from debt. It has since maintained an average membership of about sixty. The first president was Mrs. Emma Easton. The present president is Henry English. Carroll Brooks is vice-president. The secretary is



**MRS. EMMA EASTON**

First President of the Hayden Station Social Club

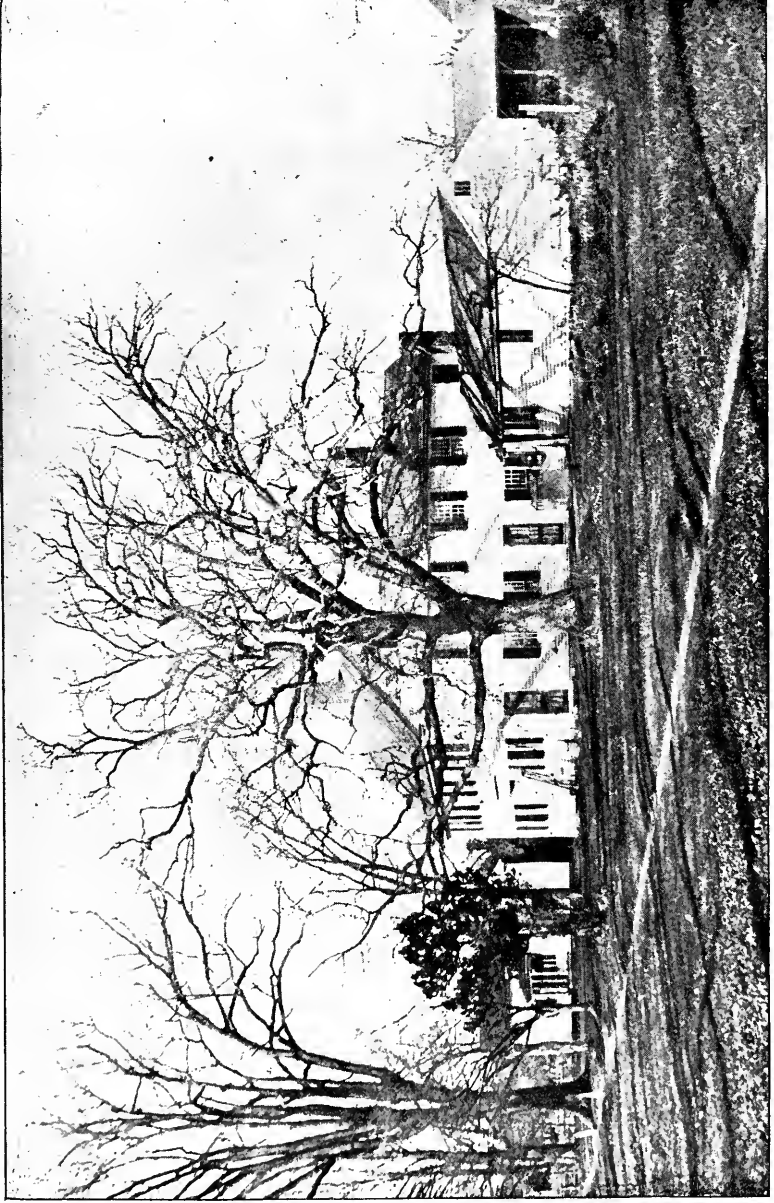
Mrs. Hattie F. Granger. Arthur Granger is treasurer. Cooperation in every enterprise and gratitude to those who have preceded them explain the remarkable success of this social venture.

The charter members of this club were: Mr. and Mrs. William A. Easton, Mrs. Henry Osborne, Mrs. Elsie Porter, Mrs. Hiram Bissell, Mrs. William Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis B. Allen, Mrs. Thomas Thrall, Mrs. Elias B. Rhaum, Mr. and Mrs. William Brooks, Mrs. M. A. Hayden, Miss Annie Clapp, Miss Bessie Clapp, Miss Cora E. Thrall, Miss Mary I. Bissell, Miss Emma Bissell, Miss Linda Bissell, Miss Annie Rhaum, Miss Josie Rhaum, Miss Nellie Sheridan, Miss Louise Osborne, Mr. Theodore V. Clapp, Mr. Frank Hayden, Mr. Edward Jewell, Mr. Velorus Dean, Mr. Frank Osborne.



BRIDGE OVER THE FARMINGTON AT WINDSOR CENTER

This bridge was built when the Hartford and Springfield branch of the New Haven System was constructed in 1844-45. It spans the river near the landing place and wharf where ocean going vessels took on their cargoes of Windsor brick one hundred years ago.



JABEZ H. HAYDEN BIRTHPLACE, HAYDEN STATION



# Business and Industries

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## Tobacco

The first historical record we have of tobacco's being grown in Connecticut was in 1640 when seed was brought from Virginia and grown in Windsor, only seven years after the town was settled. In order to protect the new home industry this law was passed the following year:

"It is ordered that what person or persons within this jurisdiction shall after September 1641, drinke any other tobacco but such as shal be planted within their libertye, shall forfeit for every pound so spent, five shillings, except they have license from this Corte."

From 1640 to the present date there has probably never been a year when tobacco was not one of the important agricultural products of Windsor and it has been the most important agricultural product of the town for many years.

Windsor has also always been the pioneer in scientific research in the growing of tobacco. During the last decade of the last century the Connecticut Tobacco Experiment Company was organized by Windsor men in Poquonock in order to carry on fertilizer experiments. The results of this set of



TOBACCO CURING SHEDS



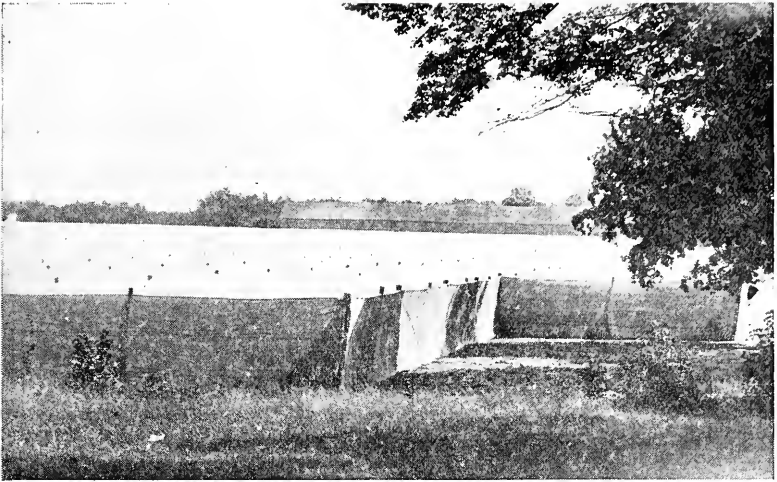
A FIELD OF BROADLEAF TOBACCO

experiments were published annually and they have stood the test of time.

This was followed by experiments in the curing of tobacco which also changed materially our conception of that process.

Another chapter of this pioneering progressive spirit was the establishment here in 1921 of the Tobacco Experiment Station, supported at first only by the growers but later taken over and enlarged by the State. It is the only Tobacco Experiment Station in New England and one of four or five of its kind in America. Dr. Paul J. Anderson, Pathologist-in-Charge, is director of the station.

Windsor was likewise the pioneer in the Shade tobacco industry. The first shade tent constructed in New England was in Poquonock where they grew a half acre of tobacco under cloth in 1900. People laughed at the foolishness of the experiment station professors who were trying to grow tobacco in a tent. But the experiment was successful and within a few years it spread all up and down the Connecticut Valley until it reached over 9,000 acres. And Windsor is still



A TYPICAL TOBACCO TENT



UNDER A TENT IN JUNE

the center of the shade industry. The town grows more acres of tobacco under cloth than any other town not only in Connecticut and New England but in the whole world.

The tents are prepared by setting posts upon the fields and running strong, heavy wire from the tops of these posts in two directions at right angles to each other with the result that an airplane view would show the field covered with a wire net having meshes about one rod square stretched about eight feet above the ground. Then the cheesecloth is drawn over the field above the wires and attached to them by means of strong, heavy sewing twine.

The tent protects the plants in many ways. It keeps out hosts of injurious insects, protects from frost, wind, and hail, and guards against drouth by checking evaporation. Its greatest service, however, consists in producing the equivalent of a semi-tropical climate and enabling the farmer to grow a type of tobacco normal to a climate much warmer than that of Windsor. This tobacco used only for wrappers brings a high price and in a favorable season offers the grower tempting opportunities for profit.



POSTS AND WIRE READY FOR THE CLOTH

### Market Gardening

While tobacco growing is the line of agriculture most often associated with the town of Windsor, it is by no means the only one that is carried on extensively and successfully. The broad level fields on the west bank of the Connecticut, east of the village of Wilson, and other fields west of that village, furnish a soil probably unsurpassed for market gardening, and their proximity to the city of Hartford provides easy access to a profitable market.

About the year 1896, Niels Christensen and his brother Anders, entered into partnership under the name of the Christensen Brothers and began raising garden vegetables for the Hartford market. For eighteen years they carried on a successful business together. Then Niels Christensen and his son John formed a new partnership and cultivated part of the land east of Wilson Village, while Anders Christensen carried on business alone farther south near the Hartford line. About 1920 Niels Christensen retired and a new partnership was formed between his son John and his son-in-law Louis Lee Rand under the name of Christensen & Rand. This firm has spacious greenhouses for the cultivation of winter products, hotbeds for starting early plants for transplanting and for market, and cultivates about one hundred thirty-five acres of garden vegetables of every description adaptable to the climate. In the busy season this firm furnishes employment to sixty persons and is probably the largest firm of its kind in Windsor.

The same general type of gardening is carried on by many individuals and firms in the vicinity of Wilson and on the west side of Palisado Avenue beginning about a mile north of Windsor Center.

Among the well-known market gardeners on Wolcott Avenue are Hans Lund who came from Germany to Wilson about 1898, Sonka B. Sonnichsen, who has cultivated most of Mr. Lund's farm since 1920, and Peter Rowett, who began market gardening about 1902. On Olga Avenue Extension, Gustav Kaiser has conducted a flourishing enterprise since 1928, and Martin Becker and the Okon Brothers a short distance south of Mr. Kaiser's farm have supplied vegetables to the Hartford

markets for many years. Their luxuriantly growing fields, beautiful homes, and fine spacious barns and storehouses give evidence that scientific agriculture can be made successful and profitable.

To the north of Windsor Center the same type of gardening can be found in the same flourishing condition. The leading gardeners are Hans C. Christensen, who established his business here in 1925; Alfred C. Jacobsen, who came a year later; Chris Christensen and Anton G. Arens, who came in 1927.

### Floriculture

Floriculture is one of the more recent developments of Windsor industry. In this field Edward F. McDermott was the pioneer. He established his greenhouses, the first in Windsor, on the west side of Broad Street a short distance south of Windsor Green in 1910. Here he has conducted a successful business continuously since that date, being assisted at present by his sons.

Only two years later, in 1912, two brothers, Gustav and Axel Hallgren, established greenhouses on the east side of Windsor Avenue at Wilson and the Hallgren Brothers now do an extensive business.

In 1921 Eugene Drake and his wife, Edna L. Drake, established a business on the east side of Palisado Avenue and carried it on together until Mr. Drake's death about seven years later. Since that time Mrs. Drake has conducted the Palisado Greenhouse specializing in geraniums and chrysanthemums, many of which are shipped to customers in all parts of the country.

In 1927 Sidney J. Snelgrove established a greenhouse on the east side of upper Broad Street, where his expanding business soon made him one of the town's leading florists.

In the same year (1927) a new venture was started at Poquonock by Ernest S. Clark, who specialized in the cultivation of gladioli. In this field his success has been outstanding. His choice varieties of bulbs have attracted national attention. In fact he has shipped them to the most distant markets as far away as Australia and New Zealand. Many of his cut flowers are sold in the New York Cut Flower Market.

One of the latest additions to Windsor's flourishing group of greenhouses is that of John F. Ward & Son on upper Palisado Avenue almost opposite the Hayden schoolhouse. This firm has a large trade, which is mostly local.

### The Windsor Company

When a few venturesome pioneers in scientific agricultural tobacco raising grew half an acre of tobacco under a tent thirty-five years ago, they were laughed at by more conservative growers, but today thousands of acres of tents in the Connecticut valley and elsewhere testify to the success of their experiment.

Having taught the world how to grow one crop under cover, it was perfectly natural that Windsor should pioneer and experiment in new fields. A new industry resulted—the manufacture and distribution of a special kind of heavy, coarse, reinforced cheesecloth to be used in covering tobacco fields. This cloth has never been manufactured in Windsor

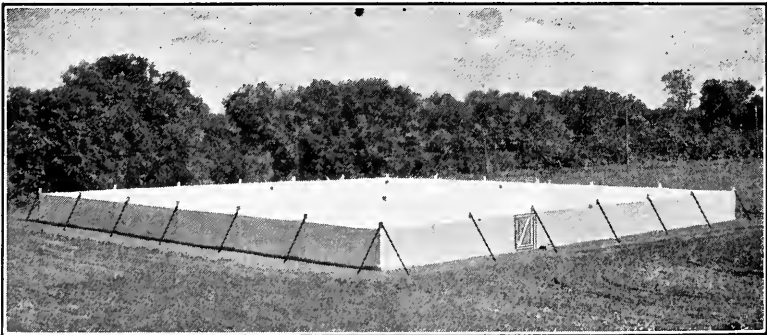


JOHN E. LUDDY AMONG HIS ASTERS

because the factories for its production did not exist here and did exist elsewhere, but Windsor experimentation produced the first demand for its production and Windsor became a leader in its distribution. One man, Mr. John E. Luddy, saw its possibilities for development and in 1918 established the Windsor Company for the distribution of cloth to farmers in the Connecticut valley.

The next step was the discovery of a means of salvaging the cloth after it had served its purpose during a period of about one hundred twenty days. Mr. Luddy bought back the cloth at the end of the season, sorted it in his warehouse at Windsor Center and resold to Cuba and Porto Rico the long and undamaged strips, which were suitable for a season's use in those islands because of their milder climate. The shorter, torn and damaged strips were prepared for use in wiping and cleaning machinery and for all the purposes commonly served by cheesecloth and cotton waste in industrial plants. To augment his business Mr. Luddy added to his stock a great variety of other standard wipers, polishing cloths, sponges, brushes, brooms, and mops. Then he included other fabrics such as towels, sheets, blankets, table linen, hosiery, and a long list of necessities for the home, the hotel, the ocean liner, and the industrial plant.

But the outstanding achievement historically has been the development of the "Aster Cloth." Asters and other flowering plants were being destroyed by insects. Mr. Luddy was asked for a cloth that would protect them. The agricul-

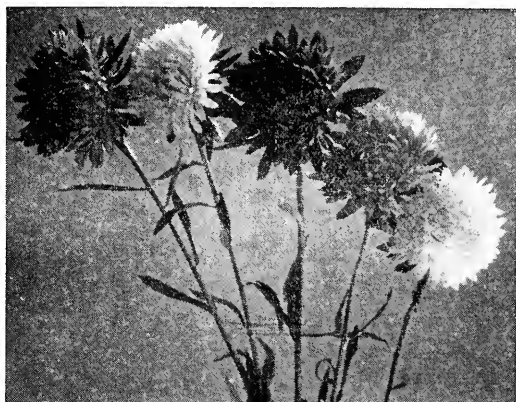


AN ASTER CLOTH HOUSE

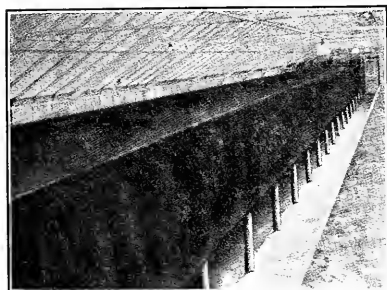


tural department at Washington was interested and cooperated. On his Windsor grounds Mr. Luddy experimented until he had solved the problem and learned the type of cloth necessary to protect the flowering plants from insects and also how by the use of light and dark cloth for shading purposes to produce many desired results in the flowers themselves.

The agricultural department published the results in some of its bulletins and "Aster Cloth" became in great demand. Thru the Windsor Company, which now has a branch office at 102 Wooster Street, New York City, "Aster Cloth" is now sold to growers of asters, chrysanthemums, pom poms, snapdragons, dahlias, and other flowering plants in every state in the Union.



THE NEW ASTER CULTURE



*Illustrating method of applying black cloth shades in the green house*



*Gold Lode Chrysanthemums after shading. In bloom Sept 5th, normal flowering time Oct 1st.*

### Brickmaking in Windsor

Brickmaking has been an important Windsor industry since early colonial days. In the olden time many of the most prosperous farmers used to make brick during the intervals of the year when there was no farm work to be done. Records indicate that as many as forty brick yards operated as late as 1846. More recently the work has been carried on in a few large yards by more modern methods, which undoubtedly have produced more brick each year than all the old yards put together.

Among the prominent brickmakers of early days were Edward and Martin Barber, whose kiln was in the rear of the present residence of Alvin L. Hubbard. Sailing vessels came up the river to take cargoes of brick from the ox-carts that delivered them at the Mud Mill landing. A train of seventeen or eighteen ox-carts could be seen at some periods of the year starting out at sunrise to deliver brick to the merchants in Hartford, where they bartered their loads for groceries, cloth, and other merchandise. The merchants had stock-yards in which the bricks were stored. The house now known as the Henry Hubbard house on the west side of Windsor Avenue at Station 11, built in 1670 from bricks made in this neighborhood, is the oldest brick house in Windsor.

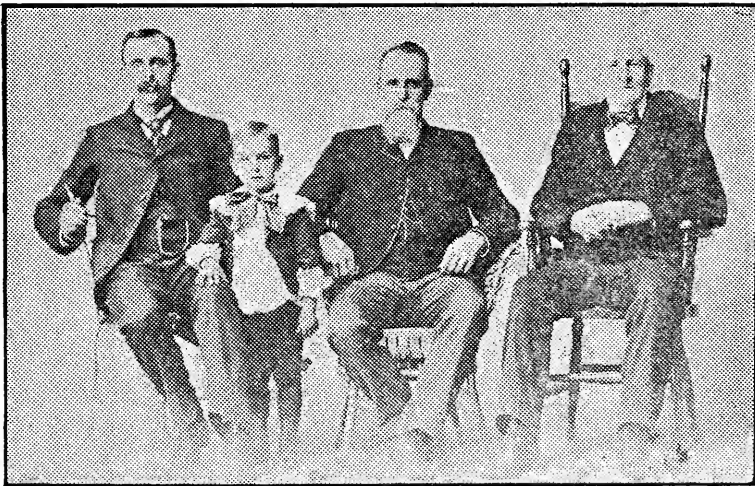
About 1812 Henry Wilson began making brick in that part of the town now known as Wilson. He carried on business under his own name until 1847 when he took his son Henry, Junior, into partnership and continued under the name of Henry Wilson & Son. After Mr. Wilson's death the business was carried on by Allyn M. Wilson until 1878 when his nephew, Samuel Wilson, organized the Wilson Brick Company. He retired from business in 1906. Fred H. Young became the next manager of the company and carried on the work until his death in April, 1930.

Another important brickyard was run by Nathan and Daniel Loomis just north of the present home of George R. Ford. Here William Mack learned brickmaking between 1827 and 1830 and in 1830 he started business on his own account on Pleasant Street. From his first kiln he furnished brick for the house built in 1830 by Wilson Shelton at the corner of

Pleasant Street and East Street. Bricks from his yards and others in the same neighborhood were taken to the Farmington River bank by ox-carts and there loaded on board boats which came to wharves a short distance southwest of the Congregational Church.

In 1846 Mr. Mack abandoned his Pleasant Street yard and started business on Mack Street, though brickmaking continued on Pleasant Street until about 1898 under the management of Wallace G. Wrisley.

In the yard on the north side of Mack Street, William Mack, assisted by some or all of his five sons, who had learned the brickmaking trade, carried on the business until after the Civil War, when his son, William Russell Mack, set up business in his own name, still using the same yard. In the spring of 1891 Edward W. Mack, son of William Russell Mack, established a business for himself and in 1911 started a new yard on a large scale on Bloomfield Avenue. In this new venture Edward W. Mack, Jr., became a partner and the business has been carried on since 1911 under the name of Edward W. Mack & Son.



#### FOUR GENERATIONS OF BRICKMAKERS

Right, William Mack; Center, William Russell Mack;  
Left, Edward W. Mack and Edward W. Mack, Jr.

Two processes have been employed by the Windsor brick-makers, known as the "water process" and the "sand process." By the water process the bricks are prepared and made as follows: Two loads of sand and four loads of clay and sufficient water to wet them properly are put into a shallow pit and thoroughly mixed by means of a cragg, which is a heavy wooden beam in which are set many wooden spikes. One end of the cragg is attached to a strong upright post set in the center of the pit. Horses are hitched to the outer end of the cragg and driven around the pit dragging the cragg through the sand, clay and water for three or four hours until the contents of the pit are ready for molding into bricks. The mixture is then put into molds by hand. Next the molds are inverted on smooth level ground and the bricks are allowed to slip out. In order that the bricks may not stick to the wooden molds these are dipped in water before being filled with clay. This gives them the name of "water struck bricks." The new or sand process, which was used at the Wilson Brick Company's yards, is now used by most brickmakers. In both processes the bricks are built into kilns in the form of arches under which wood fires are kept burning from five to seven days until the bricks are thoroughly baked.

The Mack Company, the only one now operating in Windsor, has almost a monopoly of water struck bricks which are in demand as facing for buildings of the finest type such as some of those recently erected at Yale University, New Haven, Columbia University, New York City, and in the Miriam Osborn Memorial Home at Rye, New York.

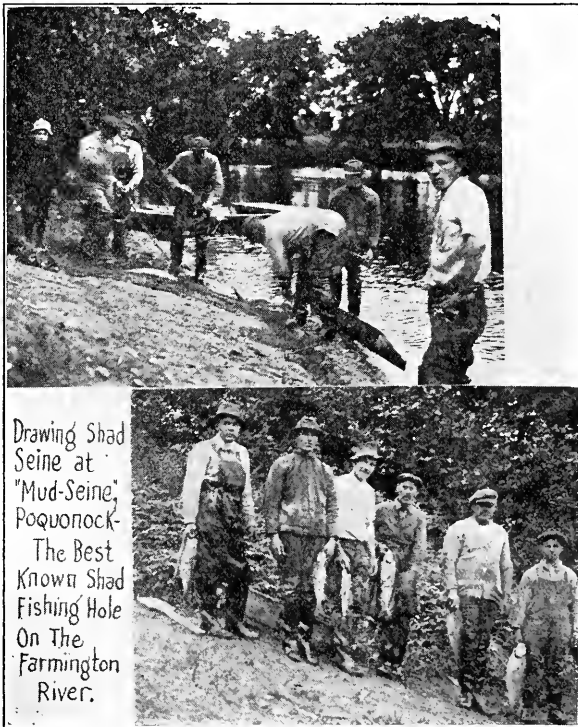
### Shad Fishing

From the earliest days Farmington River shad have ranked high in the list of delicacies. The season for catching them is short. In the spring they run up the Connecticut and the Farmington to deposit their eggs in fresh water. After spawning they return to salt water. A hundred years ago the farmers depended upon them much more than they do now and planned to catch enough in the spring season to salt down as an important part of their winter food. Now they are caught mostly by a few groups of men who sell them for immediate consumption.

There are two common methods of capturing shad. One consists in drawing seines in the deep pools that are their favorite haunts. The other consists in setting gill nets extending across the river, but not entirely across, as that is forbidden by law. When the fish come in contact with these nets they attempt to dive through head first. As the meshes are too small to allow good sized fish to pass through they find themselves entangled and attempt to extricate themselves, but their expanded gills prevent their escape.

Like all other fishing, shad fishing is uncertain business. A haul may be wasted labor and it may produce a hundred beautiful fish and in exceptional cases an astonishing number.

Mr. John Cary of Windsor Center, now eighty-two years of age, is probably the town's best informed authority on the

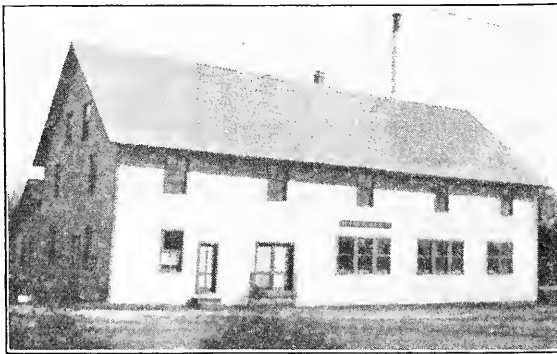


SHAD FISHERMEN OF POQUONOCK

shad fishing of the past seventy-five years. He attributes the great decline in the number of fish now caught in the Farmington and other streams flowing into the Connecticut River to the sewage and factory pollution that have rendered the streams unfit for the propagation and growth of young fish. He recalls the time when a wagon-load of shad and salmon in about equal numbers could be taken by two men in a single day, when the brooks were filled with trout, and when alewives were so plentiful in the spring that they were used by the farmers as fertilizer.

### The Windsor Cannery

The commercial canning of locally grown agricultural products on a large scale began in Windsor about forty years ago, when the Windsor Cannery was established in April, 1894,



THE WINDSOR CANNERY

as the Windsor Canning Company, a stock company organized for the purpose of canning fruits and vegetables. The stock was owned by more than 40 representative citizens of Windsor and the adjacent towns. The first officers were Horace H. Ellsworth, President; R. N. FitzGerald, Vice-President; H. Sidney Hayden, Secretary; William H. Filley, Treasurer; Robert Kean, Superintendent and Manager, and the following directors: Horace H. Ellsworth, R. N. FitzGerald, Walter Smith, Fredrick Ellsworth, Frank H. Whipple, Ralph H.

Ensign, William H. Filley, Lemuel S. Ellsworth, and Hestes W. Alford.

A large variety of products were canned and large quantities of tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, apples, etc., were bought from the local farmers and employment given to many local people.

After a few years the company failed and was sold at auction to Horace H. Ellsworth who took William H. Filley in as his partner.

Under the new management fewer things were canned but more attention was paid to producing a quality product. Soon an excellent reputation was established throughout New England.

Most of the goods are now packed under buyers' labels and nearly all the well-known brands have been used.

During the World War the Government took over a large part of the pack for war purposes. These goods with thirteen other lots were the only ones graded in the highest grade out of more than 500 lots taken.

In 1914 Philip F. Ellsworth became manager and later a partner and two years after the death of Mr. Filley, in 1919, he bought the Filley interest and became managing partner.

Shortly before the death of Mr. Horace H. Ellsworth in 1934, Mr. Philip F. Ellsworth, son of Horace H. Ellsworth, bought out his father's interest and became sole owner.

The products now packed include canned tomatoes, tomato puree, and tomato juice.

The plant is located on the east side of Poquonock Avenue a short distance north of the Old Grist Mill, which stands on the corner of Poquonock Avenue and East Street.

### **Diversified Agriculture**

Tobacco culture, market gardening, and floriculture are the leaders in Windsor's types of agriculture, but there are many other types that may be classified as side lines, some of which are by no means unimportant.

During the period from 1925 to the present time dullness in the tobacco market, ascribed to an overproduction of that plant, led many to look for some sideline that would be profit-

able in itself and permit them to decrease their acreage of tobacco.

A few tried melons, for which the soil is well adapted. Another small group raised potatoes on a large scale. The growing of tomatoes was attractive to many since the Windsor Cannery made a good home market for a large part of their production. Asparagus grew well and found a ready market. The growing of sweet corn for the seed market was perhaps the most attractive of the many sidelines to which some of the growers of large crops of tobacco decided to turn part of their attention. A number of growers of tobacco curtailed their acreage of "the weed" and raised a few acres of seed sweet corn—from forty to fifty acres being the limit for a single grower with one or two exceptions.

Probably the largest grower of sweet corn in 1935 is Charles A. Huntington of Poquonock, whose farms lie mainly a short distance southwest of Poquonock village. His average acreage, including what he either plants himself or controls, is about 85 acres. Last year he sent to market about 170,000 pounds of seed. His output goes largely to the seedsmen of Wethersfield, Connecticut, Milford, Connecticut, Rochester, New York, Bristol, Pennsylvania, and several places in the Susquehanna River valley.

These attempts at diversification show that Windsor farmers are less dependent upon a few staple crops than many formerly supposed.

### **Manufacturing Industries**

The numerous manufacturing enterprises have been carried on in Windsor the town has never been predominately a manufacturing center except in the villages at the Center and farther north, where considerable manufacturing has flourished at different times.

#### **Clocks**

Among the earliest objects of Windsor craftsmanship to achieve a reputation that has survived were the clocks made by Seth Young, who is also reported as one of the Colonial makers of hour glasses. He came to Windsor in 1742, we are told, and resided here until 1760 and while here made the



clocks that are today highly prized. We have learned of only one of his tall grandfather clocks now preserved near the place of its origin. The owner was reported in 1931 as Henry W. Erving of Hartford.

Mrs. Charles H. Willcox, who formerly owned and occupied the Chaffee House now a part of the Chaffee School, reports that in this house was a beautiful grandfather's clock made by Samuel Stiles of Windsor about 1795. A few years ago this clock passed into the hands of a relative of Mrs. Willcox and is now owned by Mr. Eugenia Dudley Levanger of Chicago.

#### Hats

Hat making was carried on about 1800 and later by Almerin Gillet, who lived in the house on Palisado Avenue now known as the Timothy Phelps homestead. His shop was in the rear of the house. Apparently his enterprise was successful. Among his family records are such items as the following:

|                           |                |      |
|---------------------------|----------------|------|
|                           | Dec. 29, 1822. |      |
| By one hat for myself     |                | \$7  |
|                           | January, 1823. |      |
| By one ditto for Griswold |                | \$7  |
|                           | May, 1824.     |      |
| By one for Edwin          |                | \$3  |
| By one for Griswold       |                | 3.50 |
|                           | Oct. 28.       |      |
| By one white hat          |                | \$4  |

Almerin Gillet was an ardent Democrat. His brother-in-law, Shem Stoughton, was a staunch Federalist. When Mr. Gillet presented Mr. Stoughton with a new hat he accompanied his gift with the following rime:

“Here's your new hat, Sir,  
Made of skunks and cats, Sir.”

and promptly received the following acknowledgment:

“Yes, I see that, Sir,  
Made by a Democrat, Sir.”

At about the same time that Mr. Gillet was making hats on Palisado Avenue, William Shelton was engaged in hat making in a shop that stood on Mill Brook a short distance north

of East Street, and which now stands in the yard adjoining the house built by Mr. Shelton in 1830.

For several years the business was operated under the name of Pease & Shelton, then in the name of William Shelton until the late fifties almost to the time of Mr. Shelton's death.

They made the familiar top hats that were then in general demand covered with otter, beaver, or nutria (a beaver-like South American animal). Their output went mainly to hat dealers in New York, Philadelphia, and New England cities.

The following letter, one of hundreds pertaining to the business, which are now in the possession of Miss Helen L. Hudson, shows the general method of distributing the output of the shop.

New York, Oct. 10/48

Dear Sir,

Your bundle of 50 hats has just come to hand. . . . I enclose you One Hundred Dolls. . . . You may send me 50 prime hats early in Nov.

Yrs.

Matthew Bird.

### Paper Making

Paper making was begun at Poquonock, which then signified that section of the town now known as Elm Grove, a short time prior to 1827. In September of that year a letter written by David Marshall says that plans were being made to enlarge the business. Richard Niles was the original promoter of the enterprise, but he soon found a partner and the business was run under the firm name of Niles & Marshall until it was purchased by Samuel O. Hollister.

At first it was a paper mill, then silk sewing thread was manufactured for several years, and finally the factory became a saw-mill and grist-mill under the management of Alexander Clapp, who retired from the management about 1860. After that date the factory gradually fell into decay.

Another paper mill was built at an early date on the Mill Brook on land owned by James Loomis a short distance south of the present home of James H. Burns on Pigeon Hill.

No record of the business carried on here is known to exist but several of the older residents recall the fact that their fathers and mothers told them vivid stories of the fire that destroyed the mill shortly before the Civil War and that one person died from exposure at the fire. The remains of the foundation walls and the old dam nearby indicate that the plant was of considerable importance.

### **Beginning at Rainbow**

Rainbow's first manufacturing project ended in failure. In 1803 Roger Griswold built a dam and a mill and planned a large enterprise under the name of the Rainbow Mills. A freshet carried away his dam almost as soon as it was constructed.

### **The Congress Mill**

The Congress Mills at Rainbow were incorporated February 21, 1835, for the purpose of making and dealing in paper. Their capital stock was \$25,000. Daniel Burgess was the first president, and Lucien B. Hanks, Griffin A. Stedman, and Charles I. Gilbert were the first board of directors. This firm later became the Springfield Paper Company. Still later it was owned by the Vernon Brothers, who manufactured tissue paper, using for that purpose the Harper machines. On October 31, 1918, the Vernon Brothers sold this mill and other property to the Farmington River Power Company, builders of the Farmington River Dam at Rainbow, and the buildings were soon demolished.

### **The Stevens Paper Mills, Inc.**

One paper mill at Rainbow started as a cotton factory and was transformed and adapted to the manufacture of paper. Messrs. Soper and Clark occupied it for a time. Then it became the property of George W. Hodge and later passed into the hands of his nephew, George J. Merwin, who on January 16, 1916, transferred the title to the Merwin Paper Company. The leading product of this company was press board. On October 25, 1922, the Merwin Paper Company sold the property to the Stevens Paper Mills, Inc., who now carry on the business.

### **The Denslow Wire Mill**

Denslow's Wire Mill was another Rainbow factory that changed its character and became a paper mill. This factory, after passing into the hands of George L. Hodge, manufactured tissue paper used mainly by railroad offices for copying purposes. From Mr. Hodge the property passed into the possession of the Vernon Brothers, who continued the manufacture of tissue until October 31, 1918, when the property was sold to the Farmington River Power Company and the buildings demolished.

### **The Hartford Paper Company**

December 16, 1873, a paper mill at Rainbow, which until that date had been owned and operated by Leverett Brainard & Company was sold to the Hartford Paper Company, who operated it in conjunction with their Poquonock Mill until December 26, 1917, when they sold it to the Stanley Works of New Britain, by whom it was transferred January 26, 1926, to the Farmington River Power Company, by whom the buildings were soon demolished.

### **The Franklin Mills**

The Franklin Mills Company was incorporated on February 6, 1838 as a paper mill with a capital stock of \$68,500. Dudley Buck was the first president, and Whiting H. Hollister, Elisha Colt, and Elijah C. Kellogg were named as "a majority of the directors." This company, which was then owned by Leverett Brainard & Co., was sold on December 16, 1873, to the Hartford Paper Company, who manufactured writing, book, and cover papers until December 30, 1918, when they sold the property to the Paper Makers, Incorporated. On December 10, of the following year, Ward J. Atwood, receiver for the new company, sold the property to the Valley Paper Company of Holyoke, who dismantled the mill and removed the machinery to their plant in Holyoke. The mill was later demolished.

### **The Hatheway Cotton Mill**

Amos M. Hatheway came from Suffield to Poquonock in 1812, when 19 years of age, to engage in the manufacture of

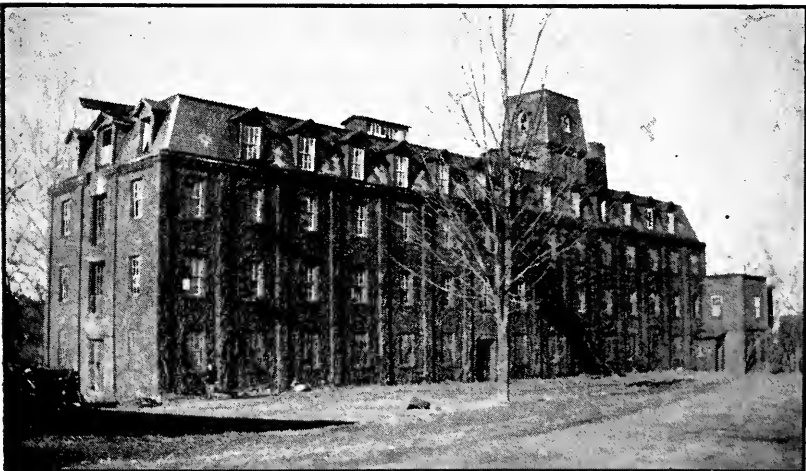
cotton goods, an industry then in its infancy. Some years later—in 1827, probably, judging from statements contained in a letter written by David Marshall in that year—he built a three-story brick factory on the north side of River Street connected by an underground shaft to a wheelhouse on the bank of the Farmington and there engaged in the manufacture of cotton batting, lamp wicks, and twine until his death in 1854, which resulted from over-exertion in an effort to save his dam from a freshet.

No other large enterprise was again carried on in this plant. For a time it was a toy making establishment. Box making was also carried on for a time. Then it was a stock house, ice house, and storehouse for miscellaneous products until it was torn down in 1934.

### The Tunxis Mill

The Tunxis Company for the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods was incorporated at Poquonock on November 28, 1848, with a capital stock of \$26,000. John M. Niles was the first president. Calvin Day, Austin Dunham, and James G. Bolles were the “majority of directors.”

In 1873 Austin Dunham and Sons of Hartford began the manufacture of worsted yarns in this mill, which was greatly enlarged in 1875.



THE TUNXIS MILL AT POQUONOCK

In 1880 Mr. Dunham took over another mill, the Poquonock Mill, which had been built in 1856 and used as a woolen mill. This mill stood on the left bank of the Farmington at the north end of the Poquonock Bridge. These combined plants were organized as the Tunxis Worsted Company.

### **The Health Underwear Company**

In 1887 the Dunham's organized the Health Underwear Company for the manufacture of Warner Brothers' health garments. Two years later under the management of Alphonse H. Brothers the old Tunxis Mill was designated as Mill No. 2 of the Dunham Company and made worsted yarns for the use of the underwear department at the Poquonock Mill and for the general market.

About 1902 or 1903 the name of the firm was changed to the Dunham Hosiery Company and changed shortly before the World War to the Dunham Mills, Inc. About 1928 the mills ceased to operate.

For a short time the Twarkins Furniture Company occupied the Poquonock Mill but eventually both this and the Tunxis Mill were sold to the Farmington River Power Company and both will probably soon disappear.

### **The Sequassen Woolen Company**

March 1, 1853, the Windsor Knitting and Manufacturing Company was organized at Windsor Center, and built its factory a short distance east of the present railroad station. Its purpose was the manufacture of wool and cotton goods. Its capital stock was \$25,000.

Edgar Loomis was the first president, who with Samuel O. Loomis, N. H. Barber, and E. N. Phelps comprised a majority of the directors.

On May 14, 1855, the company was reorganized under the name of the Sequassen Woolen Company, with William S. Pierson, president, and Samuel O. Loomis, E. N. Phelps, and D. S. Rowland the principal directors. When this building was destroyed by fire in 1873 a new building was erected on the site where it had stood and in this new building the Spencer Arms Company later manufactured its famous rifles. (See sketch of Christopher M. Spencer.)

### **The Eddy Electric Manufacturing Company**

The Eddy Electric Manufacturing Company was incorporated August 31, 1885, at Windsor Center for the purpose of manufacturing "dynamos and other machinery and apparatus adapted to or connected with electro plating." Arthur H. Eddy was made president and Arthur D. Newton, treasurer.

This company occupied the shop that had previously been occupied by the Spencer Arms Company. Mr. Eddy, the president, soon achieved an enviable reputation as an inventor and his firm became widely known. Outstanding among his contributions to the advancement of electrical industry were the Eddy Dynamo and the Dynamo Electric Machine for Electroplating and Electrotyping.

By 1891 the growth of his business necessitated the enlargement of his plant and his shop was extended to the north doubling its capacity. At the World's Fair in Chicago two years later the products of this factory formed one of the outstanding exhibits. They included a moving platform on which visitors were transported around the fair grounds.

Financial conditions brought the company under the control of the General Electric Company in 1902 and in 1910 the Eddy Company sold its rights and land to the General Electric Company, which continued to manufacture the line of generators and electrical products that Mr. Eddy had helped to develop.

### **The General Electric Company**

In 1920 the General Electric Company built a large addition to the rear of its plant and made Arthur A. Bailey, who for many years had been the acting manager, manager and superintendent of its large Windsor enterprise which continued to operate until 1928 when the business was moved to Lynn, Massachusetts, and combined with the company's plant in that city.

The Windsor plant was sold to the Pierre Lorillard Company, who have since used it as a warehouse for their tobacco business.

### **The Best Manufacturing Company**

This company which was organized June 25, 1869, with William R. Best as president, carried on the business of manufacturing cigars in a wooden building which stood on the site now occupied by the Tunxis Theater on Central Street.

### **The Windsor Collar and Cuff Company**

The business of making waterproof collars, cuffs, neckties, shirt fronts, belts, and other useful and ornamental articles was established at Windsor by Fred H. Tolles on July 5, 1897. Mr. Tolles had organized his company in Hartford on April 13, 1895, and carried on the business for two years on Asylum Street before coming to Windsor. In Windsor his first quarters were in the Academy building on the corner of Broad and Union Streets. Then he purchased land from the estate of the late H. Sidney Hayden on Union Street, where the district fire station now stands, and built a factory for his business, which was continued until about 1912, when his company was dissolved and he transformed his factory into a laundry.

In 1898 Mr. Tolles went to Chicago and established another factory for the manufacture of his products with G. I. Watson as a partner. July 24, 1902, the company incorporated with a capital stock of \$35,000, and Mr. Tolles as president, G. I. Watson, secretary, and Roland H. Tiffany, treasurer. All his goods were distributed thru agents of whom he employed for a time as many as one thousand.

### **The Farmington River Power Company**

The Ancient Town added to its reputation as a pioneer when in 1889 it started building at Oil City on the Farmington River some distance above Rainbow a plant for generating electric energy to furnish light and power.

The little frame construction powerhouse, whose water wheels operated turbines, started generating current in 1890 and in 1893 the Hartford Electric Light Company began transmitting three-phase alternating current at between four and five thousand volts from the hydro-electric station at Oil City to the company's State Street Station in Hartford where its steam power plant was located. The power transmitted was



reckoned at three hundred kilowatts and was used to operate the first polyphase motor built by what is now known as the General Electric Company. This is the first instance in this country of long distance transmission of electric current by any public utility company.

The close relation existing in its early days between this power company and the Hartford Electric Light Company is shown by the fact that Austin C. Dunham, its first president, was also for a time president of the Hartford Electric Light Company. Among the engineers who helped to plan and promote this enterprise were William L. Robb, then a professor at Trinity College, E. W. Rice, later chief engineer and then president of the General Electric Company, and Charles P. Steinmetz, who achieved world-wide fame for his later electrical work with the General Electric Company.

Among the local men who were prominently identified with the Oil City enterprise was Fred M. Wilbraham, who became superintendent of the station in 1895 and later was made consulting engineer of the Hartford Electric Light Company.

On Labor Day, 1896, the little power station was destroyed by fire. However, with the utmost speed a new station was built, this time of brick, and equipped with improved machinery. For twenty years the power company supplied its product to the Hartford Electric Light Company. When the contract that had called for this service expired the company supplied power to the Stanley Works of New Britain. A little later the Stanley Works secured a controlling interest in the company, which had failed to keep pace in growth and development with the needs of the New Britain plant, and a larger and up-to-date powerhouse was built at Rainbow Village and a new dam constructed at that location—a project spoken of as the “million dollar plant.”

This plant now supplies current for the Stanley Works in New Britain, sells energy to the Northern Connecticut Power Company, and has high tension wires running to Rockville and connecting with other places.

### **The Anchor Mill**

In the early years of the nineteenth century, especially after the construction of the Canal, the extreme northeastern part of Old Windsor offered more attractions for manufacturing industries than other parts of the town. Consequently that part of the town, which, in 1854, became the Town of Windsor Locks, is more predominately a manufacturing center than any part of the Windsor of today. But not all of the early industries have survived.

The first paper mill at "the Locks" was built in 1832 by Samuel Williams of Hartford. It started operations in the spring of 1833. In 1837 this mill passed into the hands of a newly organized company known as the Windsor Manufacturing Company. Later the ownership passed to Alonzo S. Beckwith of Hartford.

March 7, 1844, the property was sold to Dudley Persse and Horace Brooks, who, under the name of the Anchor Mill, made it one of the leading paper-making organizations of their time.

In December, 1856, the mill was destroyed by fire. Within a year it had been rebuilt and was in operation and for many years it furnished the New York Herald with its printing paper. In 1857 it was said to be the largest paper mill in the world. Copying tissues became its specialty in more recent years.

### **The Seymour Mill**

This mill was on the Canal bank a short distance above the railroad station. Starting in 1859 it went thru many changes and enlargement and was one of the best known paper mills in New England. Finally the ownership passed into the hands of the American Writing Paper Company, who, in 1930, closed the mill and transferred its business to Holyoke, Massachusetts.

In its early years this mill was noted for the fact that it made paper almost exclusively from rags imported from Egypt in sailing boats and tramp steamers, which brought them in five or ten thousand ton lots.

### **C. H. Dexter & Sons**

In 1836 Charles Haskell Dexter began the manufacture of paper in the basement of a grist-mill, which had been built by the Dexter family many years earlier. A new mill was built in 1847 and many changes and enlargements have been made in later years and the plant still operates under the name of C. H. Dexter & Sons making products that are in great demand and supply an extensive market.

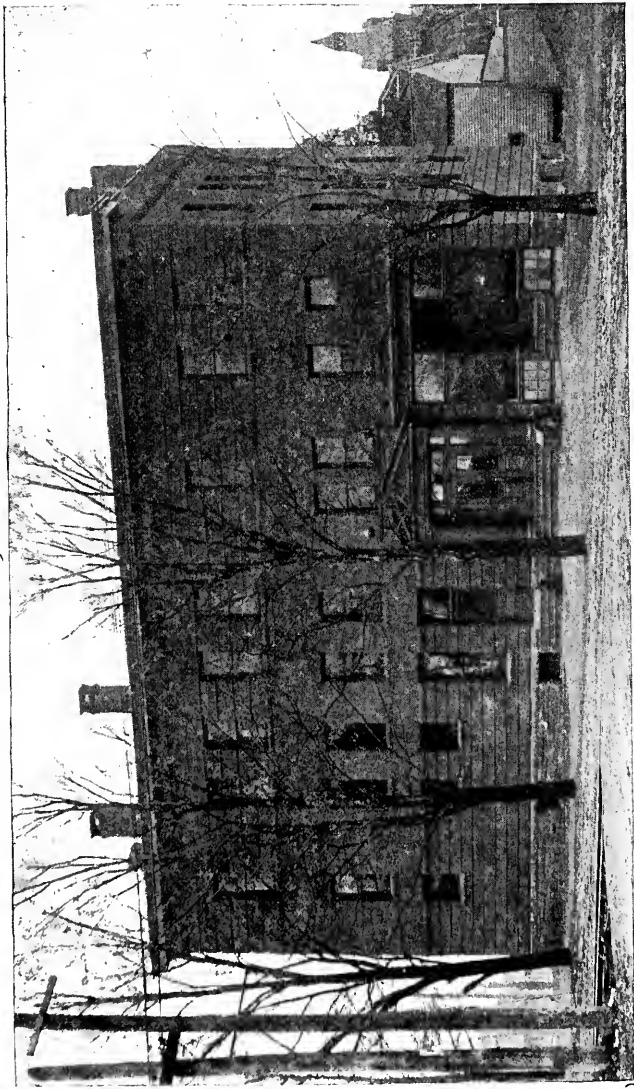
### **Holbrook's Globes**

Charles W. Holbrook's globes built for many years until about 1900 in a brick factory beside the Kettle Brook on Center Street were extensively used in public and private schools.

### **Outstanding Plants Today**

Other large plants that date back a generation or more and are still operating include the Medicott Company, which has made fine knit underwear since 1864, and the J. R. Montgomery Company, where novelty yarns and threads are produced. This company was the first in the country to place upon the market mercerized cotton yarn. In the manufacture of their products they use practically every known workable fiber, as well as gold, silver, and copper tinsel, glass, and chemical compounds.

Another outstanding factory is that of the George P. Clark Company, now run by George E. Clark, which has an international fame as the producer of hand, platform, and special trucks, patent rubber and iron wheel casters, ventilating and exhaust fans, and machinery for paper manufacturers.



#### THE ELLSWORTH & FILLEY BUILDING

This building at Windsor Center is one of the most prominent in the business life of the town. It houses the local telephone exchange, the Masonic Lodge, and several stores and offices. It was the first home of the Windsor Trust Company.

## Persons of Note

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The following are a few among the many sketches that might be written of men and women who have contributed conspicuously to the life and progress of Ancient Windsor.

### WILLIAM HOLMES

It is to be regretted that Windsor knows but little of the life of the man who led the band of pioneers who came to make the First English Settlement in Connecticut. His part in that enterprise has already been told in the first chapter of this book.

We have sought to learn his later history and find the following few facts on record. Two years after laying the foundation of his Windsor Settlement he was back in Massachusetts near his former home and was engaged to give military training to the men of Duxbury. Tho he led a peaceful enterprise in the Connecticut Valley he was preeminently a military man.

In the Pequot War he was an officer but details of his service are lacking. His record is not found in Windsor but in Plymouth and it seems almost certain that he commanded Plymouth troops who cooperated with those from Connecticut.

When the Pequot War was over Holmes was back in Windsor and in 1638 he was the responsible head of the little band of Plymouth settlers, who complained that Sachem Aramamett and his tribe were encroaching upon the land that they desired to occupy. The General Court authorized him to supervise the removal of the Indians to their former home near the present Aramamett Street at Wilson.

On May 3, 1638, Holmes was acting as attorney and manager of the Plymouth settlement and he sold the Plymouth Trading House and all the land still owned by New Plymouth to Matthew Allyn of Hartford. There is no further record of his residence in Windsor.

He went to England and again became a soldier in the British army. His stay in England was short. In 1649 he had returned to Massachusetts and his death at Boston is

recorded on the 12th day of November of that year. He left a will which showed that he owned a farm in Scituate a few miles from the home of his Plymouth friends. When he led the settlers of New Plymouth (Windsor) in 1633 he was known as Lieutenant Holmes. At the time of his death he had won promotion in rank and was mentioned as Major William Holmes.

#### ROGER LUDLOW

Among the settlers who came from Dorchester, Massachusetts, to Windsor in 1635, Roger Ludlow stands out as by far the most eminent man. He was a lawyer and as such he was probably the most learned and distinguished of all the lawyers who came to Connecticut during his generation.

He was born in England. His baptismal record was dated March 7, 1590, at Dinton, Wiltshire. At the age of twenty he entered Balliol College at Oxford in 1610 and two years later began the study of law in the Inner Temple. He became one of the assistants of the Massachusetts Bay Company in 1630 and sailed with other officers of the company and with the Rev. John Warham's party from Plymouth on the *Mary* and John for Dorchester, Massachusetts, where they arrived on May 30 of that year.

At once he entered upon his duties as a member of the court of assistants and continued to serve in that capacity for the next four years. His ability and legal knowledge won immediate recognition and by 1634 he had risen to the position of deputy governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony and looked forward to occupying the governor's chair. The following year he was disappointed when John Haynes was elected governor. This disappointment along with other influences turned his attention strongly toward Connecticut, to which many of his friends and associates had for months contemplated moving. He decided to go with them.

He did not sympathize with the church restrictions that prevailed in Massachusetts. He chafed under the ecclesiastical domination that maintained that none but church members ought to vote. He sympathized with Thomas Hooker, who

had vigorously set forth the doctrine of democracy in church and state as opposed to the aristocracy of the Bay colony.

Early in 1635 he was on his way thru the wilderness to seek a new settlement on the bank of the Connecticut. He became the leading influence in the establishment of another Dorchester, now Windsor. He was one of the commissioners appointed to govern the new river settlements for a period of one year and in this capacity presided over the first General Court, which met at Hartford on April 26, 1636. In the chapter of this book that deals with the formation of the first constitution of Connecticut in 1639 his great service to Connecticut and the world in connection with that document is told and also his service in drafting the Ludlow Code of 1650 and as a member of the board of commissioners that directed the affairs of the New England Confederacy, which he was instrumental in forming in 1643.

In 1639 he left Windsor for a time to explore the beautiful region of Fairfield, thru which as a soldier in the Pequot War he had pursued the fleeing Indians two years earlier. Here he chose a site for a future home, drove some cattle there, and laid out some lots of land "for himself and others." In 1640 followed by several families from Windsor he moved to Fairfield. His rival, John Haynes, had followed him to Connecticut and joined the Hartford settlement, where his popularity resulted in his being chosen the first governor under the new constitution, while Roger Ludlow, chief of those who had drafted that constitution, took the subordinate position of deputy governor. Disappointment over this outcome is believed to have had its influence in driving him to his new home far to the south of Windsor and of Hartford.

Here he remained until 1654. In a real sense he was the "Father of Fairfield." Every year he was elected one of the town's magistrates. He was the judge of the Fairfield court and the commander of the Fairfield militia. In 1642 and again in 1648 he was elected deputy governor of Connecticut and four times he was made a commissioner of the New England Confederacy.

As a military commander he came into conflict with the civil authority at Hartford. Fairfield, tho far to the south of

New Haven, was under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut colony, from which its early settlers had come. Hence, when Fairfield and its neighbor, Stamford, were menaced by hostile Indians in 1654, Ludlow looked to Connecticut for approval of his plan to attack the Dutch at New Netherlands, who were believed to be the real instigators of the Indian hostilities. Connecticut did not approve the plan. Ludlow next appealed to New Haven for assistance and was refused. In desperation Fairfield and Stamford determined to raise their own little army and fight their own war under the leadership of Ludlow. This brought protest and criticism from both Connecticut and New Haven. Irritated and disappointed Ludlow decided to move again. Disposing of his property he went with his family to pay a visit to his brother George at Yorktown, Virginia.

A few months later he was in Ireland and on November 3, 1654, he was appointed by Cromwell a member of the commission for "receiving, hearing, and determining of claims in or to forfeited lands in Ireland." On December 18 of the same year he was appointed a commissioner for the administration of justice in Dublin. He was evidently living in Dublin ten years later, where it is recorded: "1664, June 3. Burial, Mary Ludlow, wife of Roger Ludlow, Esq." There the record ends. In the words of a biographer, "No authority yet seen records his death or points to his grave."

#### JOHN MASON

John Mason's story so far as it relates to Windsor is largely outlined in the story of the Pequot War, but the colony of Connecticut had further use for his services and he was soon made "the public military officer of the Plantations of Connecticut," with a salary of 40 pounds a year, and given the title of "Major." For thirty-five years he was the drill-master for all the troops in the Colony.

In 1647 he was sent to command the most important defensive position in Connecticut—the fort at Saybrook. Here for five years he was virtually dictator of the town. Later he served as Deputy Governor and as one of the Commissioners of the New England Colonies.



Having helped to establish Windsor and Saybrook he became one of the founders of Norwich and died there in 1672.

#### MATTHEW ALLYN

During the thirty years from 1640 to 1670 the Hon. Matthew Allyn, as he came to be called, was Windsor's most eminent "man of affairs." Born at Brampton, Devonshire, England, he migrated to Charlestown, Massachusetts, where in 1633 he had 49 acres of land allotted to him—a much larger share than went to any other settler. Two years later he owned five houses in Cambridge and was the largest landowner in that town. Energetic, persistent, and ambitious for broader opportunities, he followed the first settlers to Hartford, where he settled on what is now Windsor Street and became a large landowner and the proprietor of the first mill in Hartford, which stood at the foot of Pearl street.

In 1638 he purchased the Plymouth Trading House in Windsor, together with all the lands "houses, servants, goods, and chattels" then owned by the original group of Plymouth colonists. He soon established his home near the site of the Trading House and became one of the leading citizens of Windsor. He represented Windsor in the General Court, except in 1653, every year from 1648 to 1658. He was a magistrate of the Colony ten years, from 1657 to 1667. From 1660 to 1664 he was one of Connecticut's Commissioners to the New England Confederacy. In 1661 he was moderator of the committee that petitioned King Charles the Second for a charter and when the charter was granted the next year Matthew Allyn was named one of the grantees.

Until his death in 1670 he was constantly called upon to discharge public duties of dignity and importance and he received many honors and tokens of appreciation from the people of his home town and the citizens of his state.

His son John held many prominent positions of trust and honor in the city of Hartford, which he selected as his home, his grandson Matthew was a Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut, and other descendants have been prominent in public affairs.

## MATTHEW GRANT

When one studies the early records of Windsor the number of public services of Matthew Grant make him the best known of all the pioneers. He was a member of the original company that came to America on the *Mary and John*, lived for a time at Dorchester, Mass., and then came to Matianuck, later Dorchester, now Windsor. He was the second town clerk, compiled the records of both town and church, was a land surveyor whose services seem to have been in great demand. His records are a priceless treasure to the student of Windsor history.

His descendants have been prominent and influential in the public and professional life of many states, preeminent among them being the Reverend Roland D. Grant, noted preacher, lecturer, and social reformer; Frank Grant, a leading business man of Westfield, Massachusetts; General Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, and his distinguished family.

## ROGER WOLCOTT

The school at Wilson, one of the largest schools in Windsor, is named in honor of a man who never attended any school as a pupil even for a single day. Yet the Roger Wolcott School was not named for a man who was uneducated. Roger Wolcott tells in his own account of his life how it happened that he never had an opportunity to go to school. It was not because his parents did not value education. Both his father and his mother belonged to families distinguished for learning and culture. Simon Wolcott, his father, was the son of Henry Wolcott, one of the most distinguished of the Dorchester party that came to Windsor in 1635. His mother, Martha Pitkin, was the sister of William Pitkin, Attorney-General and Treasurer of Connecticut. In intellect and culture she ranked with the best in the colony. If these parents did not send their son to school there was a good reason for the seeming neglect.

The fact is that he had no school to attend. After their marriage, October 17, 1661, his parents lived for about ten years on the "Island" near the present location of the Loomis

School. They owned land where they lived and also on the east side of the Connecticut River. In 1671 they moved to the new settlement at Simsbury. Here they prospered until 1675, when King Philip's War drove them back to Windsor. Their home and buildings in Simsbury were burned. They rented a house in Windsor and there Roger was born January 4, 1679. At that time, as he tells us in his autobiography, his "father's outward estate was at the lowest ebb." A year later they moved to South Windsor and established their home on the two hundred-acre farm that they had retained when they sold their Island property before going to Simsbury.

In South Windsor they had few neighbors and no church and no school. The little boy and his brothers and sisters were taught their first lessons by their parents at home. When Roger was eight years old his father died and two years later his mother became the wife of Daniel Clark, Esq., of Old Windsor, whose home was at Wilson. Here Mr. Clark owned land in the vicinity of the present Wilson School and it seems almost certain that little Roger played with other children on the very spot where the schoolhouse stands. When he had become a famous man it was most appropriate that his name should be given to the school where he had lived.

Roger Wolcott tells us that in 1690 his "mind turned to learning." His mother and his stepfather were his teachers. He was an apt scholar and advanced rapidly. When he was about fifteen years old he was apprenticed to a "clothier" and remained with him five years. He now read all the books he could borrow and having a remarkable memory he was soon well informed.

His ability was recognized and public honors came rapidly. He was chosen selectman for the town of Windsor in 1707. His home was now on the east side of the river where he had gone to live after his marriage in 1702. In 1709 Windsor sent him as a Representative to the General Assembly.

The next year he was made a Judge. Then he went with the New England Expedition to Canada in Queen Anne's War and was Commissary for the Connecticut troops. In 1714 he became a member of the upper branch of the General Assembly.

1721 saw him a Judge of the County Court and in 1732 he was promoted and made a Judge of the Superior Court.

Ten years later, 1742, he became Deputy-Governor and then Chief Judge of the Superior Court. In 1745 he went again to Canada. This time he was a Major General and led the Connecticut troops in their successful expedition against Cape Breton. In the great attack on Louisburg he was second in command of the United Colonial Forces and when the fortress surrendered he became the hero not alone of Windsor but of all Connecticut.

His next honor came when he was chosen Governor, in which office he served three years. When engaged in the public service he was the most striking and impressive character that Connecticut had ever seen. He wore a flowing wig, a three-cornered hat with a cockade, and a suit of scarlet broadcloth with gilt buttons and long gilt vellum buttonholes. Everyone was impressed with his dignity and authority.

His term of office was marred by one misfortune. A Spanish ship in distress took refuge in New London harbor and during its stay there much of its valuable cargo was wasted by bad management on the part of those in charge of the ship. A report was circulated by political rivals that the Governor had treated the Spaniards unjustly and extorted large sums from the owner of the cargo. This report caused his defeat at the next election. A full investigation showed the Governor blameless, but the incident saddened his later years.

He died at the home of his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Captain Roger Newberry, in Old Windsor, May 17, 1767.

#### JONATHAN EDWARDS

Jonathan Edwards, probably the most distinguished theologian that America has produced, was born in Windsor (in the present town of South Windsor) October 5, 1703. Prepared for college by his father he entered Yale and graduated before he was seventeen years old. He then studied theology for two years and began preaching first in New York City, then in Bolton, Connecticut. From 1724 to 1726 he was a tutor at

Yale. Next he went to Northampton, Massachusetts, as associate to his grandfather, Rev. Samuel Stoddard. After the death of his grandfather in 1729 Mr. Edwards continued the work of his church alone and under his administration in 1734 occurred one of the most extraordinary religious revivals in American history.

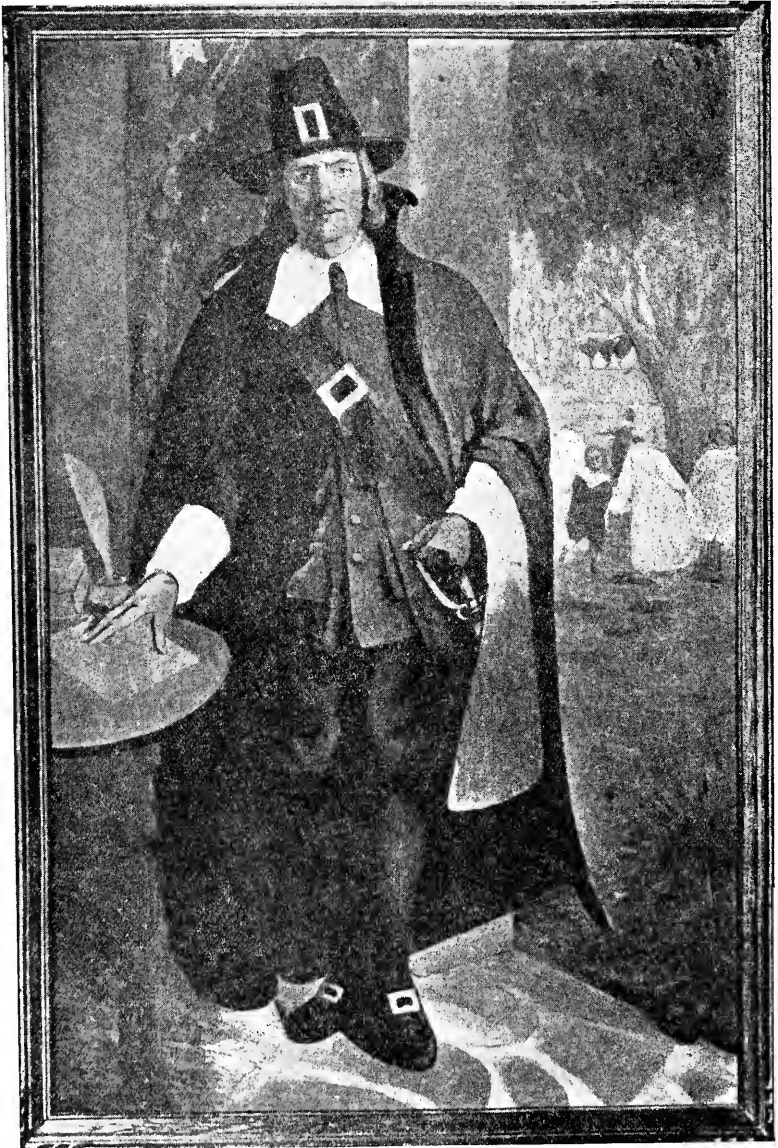
Fifteen years later his opposition to certain practices and beliefs current among his people led to so much dissension that he was dismissed from his church. In 1751 he accepted two invitations—one to become pastor of the church in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and the other to become a missionary to the Housatonic Indians, who then lived in the vicinity of Stockbridge. In this double capacity he carried on a most arduous work until 1758 and also found time to write two books that made his name famous in America and in Europe. Their titles were "Original Sin" and the "Freedom of the Will."

During his busy years at Northampton and Stockbridge he preached many sermons in churches elsewhere and some of these attracted the attention of the whole country. Perhaps the most famous of all was the sermon preached at Enfield in 1741 entitled "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." His name became almost a synonym for strictness and severity. His genius and brilliancy of thought and imagination place him among intellectuals of the highest rank.

In January, 1758, he was inaugurated President of Princeton College. Small pox was prevalent at the time and he was inoculated for protection, but inoculation, then in its infancy, was little understood and sometimes proved as fatal as the small pox. It proved so in this case and as a result Jonathan Edwards died two months after assuming office as president of Princeton.

#### JOHN FITCH, THE SOLDIER

Windsor knows little about the history of John Fitch the soldier, except the fact that he became one of the earliest benefactors of the cause of education and is today beloved by all the high school boys and girls of the town. Left a widower by the death of his wife August 11, 1673, and having



JOHN FITCH

From the Painting by Ruel Crompton Tuttle

no children of his own he took a fatherly interest in all the children of his town and when the Indians under the leadership of King Philip of Rhode Island invaded Connecticut John Fitch at once enlisted as a soldier in the war to defend the English settlers and their homes and made the following will, which manifested his love of children and his interest in their education:

These may Testifie

That I John ffitch of Windsor being to goe forth and know not that I may return: Doe desire to Committ my soule to God

As for that smal estat God hath given me I dispose as followeth first that my Just debt be paid out of it The rest both land and goods I give to the promoting of a scoole heere in Windsor to be dispose of in the best way as the County Court and select men of the Town shall see meet for the end aforesd In wisse to the above sd I here to set my hand this 30 day of August, 1675

(x) the mark of  
John ffitch

Wittnes

John moore <sup>senr</sup>

John Higley

Fitch was wounded in the famous Swamp Fight with the Indians and returned to Windsor, where he died May 9, 1676.

His estate as shown by the following inventory was small but it laid the foundation of the Union School Fund which has been used for more than two centuries and a half to help support higher education in Windsor.

John Fitch Inventory 1676  
Juen ye 1 | 76 |

Decon Moore, John loomys, Mr. Thomas Allyn, mathew grant, meet to take account of what estat of John Fitches was to be found to be his, he dyed May 9, 1676 that littell estat presented to us to be his wee took account of it as followeth

A dwelling howse that was Thomas Rowlyes  
 which by exchang with John Fitch for land  
 Thomas had of John fitch to  
 have his howse & land to it two parcelles 8 acres  
 & half . here in Windsor, ye valuat ion of it  
 for Inventory, was seet at\_\_\_\_\_30- 0-0  
 And sume land one ye east sid ye great river  
 begining halfe a mile from ye river runing easterly  
 two miles an half, 16 rod in bredth riseth to 80  
 acres set at\_\_\_\_\_04- 0-0  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 34- 0-0

sume fewe movables at Mr. Thomas Allyns howse  
 not expressing here en eny partickler as we have  
 in booke, all together as prised came to\_\_\_\_\_05-12-0  
 moore things at ye howse where he dyed, where  
 georg Jeffrey lives, or Mr. allyns howse all things  
 these sumed to gether as prised to\_\_\_\_\_04- 6-0  
 also fower hamers presented at another place\_\_\_\_\_00- 5-0  
 there is due to ye stat from ye cuntrey rat, for  
 his going a soulger to warr, & his cuntrey rat  
 payd \_\_\_\_\_01-18-0  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 46- 1-0

Witness

Mathew Grant  
 John Loomys

Debtes Demanded to be payed out of ye estat

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| Mr. Wolcot srs demands                      | — | 0-4s- 0 |
| Mr. Thomas Allyn for<br>rent & diat demands | — | 2-13- 6 |
| Decon moore demands                         | — | 1- 2-10 |
| John moore demands                          | — | 0- 2- 6 |
| Tahan grant                                 | — | 0- 7- 6 |
| James enno demands                          | — | 0- 5- 0 |
| Thomas Deble sr                             | — | 0- 6- 0 |
| William Buell                               | — | 0-16- 0 |
| Sara buell for Riting                       | — | 0- 3- 0 |
| Abram Randall                               | — | 0- 3- 0 |



|                         |   |         |
|-------------------------|---|---------|
| Thomas loomas           | — | 0- 2- 4 |
| leftnant fylar          | — | 0- 2- 7 |
| Robard Hayward          | — | 0- 6- 0 |
| Jams Rising             | — | 0- 3- 0 |
| Edward mesenger         | — | 2- 0- 0 |
| James Hiller            | — | 1-15- 0 |
| his relations           | — | 0x16x 0 |
| nicolas evens           | — | 0- 5- 0 |
| Semual Bissel demands   | — | 0- 0- 6 |
| Ebenezer Parsons        | — | 0- 2- 0 |
| John Hegly for suger    | — | 0- 1-11 |
| Josep Griswold          | — | 0- 9- 0 |
| Cornelus gillet         | — | 0- 2- 6 |
| John Porter srs demands | — | 0- 2- 6 |
|                         |   | 12-11-8 |

In 1921 Windsor erected a new high school building and in honor of the town's benefactor named the school which it shelters the John Fitch High School. Over the main entrance to the school a relief bust of Fitch is chiseled in stone and within the lobby of the school hangs a life size decorative portrait done by Windsor's well-known artist, Ruel Crompton Tuttle, representing Fitch having signed his will and about "to goe forthe" to the Indian War in which he lost his life.

The following song, written by Miss C. Louise Dickerman, Director of school music for Windsor, is sung at school graduations and alumni reunions.

### School Song

(Tune, Auld Lang Syne)

To you, dear Windsor High, we sing  
 Our song of grateful praise.  
 Within your walls we work and play  
 Spend many happy days.  
 We're forming friendships fond and true  
 We're learning to bestow  
 A friendly smile, a helping hand  
 As on through life we go.

Long years ago from this old town  
Went forth a soldier brave,  
Who died for us, and for our school  
His modest fortune gave.  
He understood that knowledge, truth  
And education rule  
And so with gratitude sincere  
For him we've named our school.

And when in years to come we leave  
Our Alma Mater dear,  
We'll thank with those who've helped us all,  
John Fitch whom we revere.  
We'll sing his praises one and all  
And in unbroken band,  
Pledge loyalty to Windsor High  
To God and Native Land.

#### JOHN FITCH, THE INVENTOR

On January 21, 1743, there was born in the town of Windsor a boy who became one of the greatest inventors in the world. He was named John Fitch. He lived on the east side of the Connecticut River in the part of Windsor which is now the town of South Windsor. Here he had an opportunity to watch the sailing vessels that went up and down the Connecticut. If the wind ceased to blow the vessels could not move but must wait until the wind came again. John Fitch began to wonder if ships could not be built that would sail when there was no wind. Years later he determined to try to build one that should go by steam.

He received a better education than most boys of his time. He went to a "dame school" when he was about four and one-half years old and continued regularly until he was ten years of age. When he was thirteen years old his father allowed him to attend school again for six months in order to learn mathematics and surveying. At the age of fifteen he went to work for Roswell Mills, a storekeeper at Simsbury, for eleven shillings a month. Later he learned clock-making, the work of a silver smith, and engineering. In 1769 he left

Windsor carrying a bundle of clothing and having eight dollars in his pocket. He served in the Revolutionary War and went to live at Warminster, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Here he did his first work in attempting to build a steamboat. He made a model that actually ran on a nearby pond in Davisville, Pennsylvania, in 1785. The boat had side wheels which were driven by steam.

His first really successful steamboat was built at Philadelphia in 1786 and tested on the Delaware River, July 27, 1786. A model of this boat is in the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C. In the summer of 1787, Fitch launched another boat on the Delaware River at Philadelphia.

This boat was forty-five feet long and its greatest width was twelve feet. It had six oars or paddles on each side and there was a small engine to drive the machinery that worked these paddles.

It was the year 1787 and the great convention that assembled to frame the constitution of the United States was then in session. Nearly all the members of the convention came down to the river's bank to see the strange boat. It moved successfully up and down the river and all who saw it were enthusiastic in its praise. But it was too slow to suit its inventor and the next year he built a larger boat sixty feet in length. This boat had its paddles placed at the stern. Its trial trip took place October, 1788, when it steamed from Philadelphia to Burlington, a distance of twenty miles, going up stream against the current, carrying thirty passengers, and making the trip in three hours and ten minutes.

At every town and village along the route people greeted the boat with cheers and waved their handkerchiefs as it passed. It was a great day in the history of navigation, for John Fitch had done what no one else had ever done anywhere in the world. He had invented a successful steamboat and changed the whole history of future navigation.

Fitch improved his boat, built a larger engine, and during the summer of 1790 carried passengers regularly between Philadelphia and Burlington. No sailing boat upon the river could

go as fast as his new steamboat and after a race in which the steamboat passed every other vessel Fitch exclaimed "We reign Lord High Admiral of the Delaware."

The next year Congress granted him a patent for his new and important invention. A few months later he went to France intending to build another boat to show to the people of Europe. A great revolution had broken out in France and Fitch could get no money nor aid to build his boat. He left the country and visited England, but deposited the plans of his boat with a friend, Aaron Vail, who was then United States Consul at Lorient in France. Robert Fulton visited France and had an opportunity to see and study these plans. This doubtless was of great aid to him in building the famous Clermont several years later.

From England Fitch returned to Windsor in 1794. In 1796 he lived in New York City where he built another boat with which he experimented on a pond near the city. From New York he moved to Kentucky where he continued to make experiments with a small model boat until his death.

He died at Bardstown, July 2, 1798, completely worn out by his efforts to convince an unbelieving world that his steamboat was a practical invention.

On May 25, 1927, a national monument was unveiled in his honor at Bardstown. Congress had appropriated fifteen thousand dollars in 1925 to pay for this monument after having declared by unanimous vote that John Fitch was the real inventor of the world's first successful steamboat.

He died poor but he gave the world an invention which has added vastly to the wealth of others. A short time before his death he wrote to a friend, "This will be the mode of crossing the Atlantic in time whether I shall bring it to perfection or not; steamboats will be preferred to all other conveyances and they will be particularly useful in the navigation of the Ohio and the Mississippi. The day will come when some more potent man will get fame and riches from my invention."

Connecticut numbers John Fitch among the sons whom she loves to honor. In the capitol building at Hartford the state has erected a bronze tablet to his memory and in South

Windsor the Admiral Bunce section of the Navy League of the United States has placed a marker to tell the world where he was born.

#### DANIEL MARSHALL AND THE BAPTISTS

Daniel Marshall was born at Pigeon Hill in Windsor in 1706. He was educated for the service of the church and became active in the office of deacon of the orthodox church which his family attended. Having espoused the doctrines of the Baptists he incurred the displeasure of his former friends and associates in religious work and after hearing the preaching of George Whitefield he decided to join the missionary movement that was spreading with great enthusiasm over much of New England and the colonies farther west. The Indians were included in the plans of these missionaries and Mr. Marshall became a leader among those who rushed to the Susquehanna region to convert the Mohawks. Their early work gave promise of much success until war among the Indians forced the removal of the missionaries to Conegochague, Pennsylvania.

From Pennsylvania Mr. Marshall went first to Winchester, Virginia, then to Hughwarry, North Carolina. Later he was in charge of the work of his church at Beaver Creek, South Carolina. He next removed to Horse Creek, near Augusta, Georgia. From here he started out to visit pioneer settlements in the interest of his work. The General Assembly of Georgia had made the Church of England the legal Church establishment of the province and when Mr. Marshall attempted to preach to a congregation assembled in a beautiful grove he was arrested for preaching contrary to the "rites and ceremonies of the Church of England."

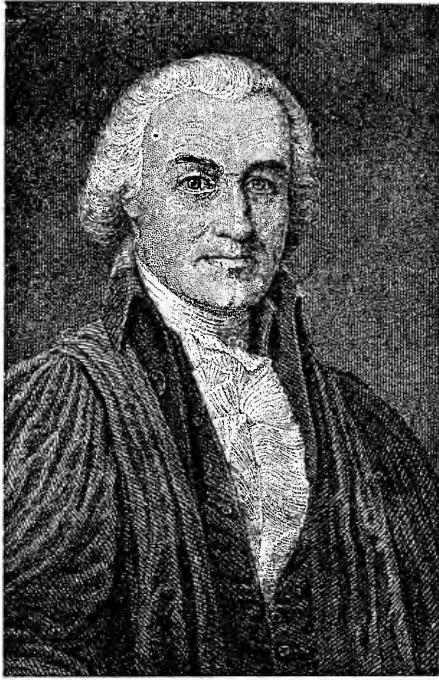
He stood trial, was condemned, and forbidden to preach again in Georgia. In spite of this opposition he continued his work and in 1771 founded the Kiokee Baptist Church at Appling, Columbia County, thus establishing the first Baptist Church in Georgia.

The work of this man though little known to the present generation in his home town is better understood in the Southland, where millions have heard the story of the Rev. Daniel Marshall, founder of the Southern Baptist Church.

## OLIVER ELLSWORTH

Oliver Ellsworth was born in Windsor on April 29, 1745. He prepared for college under the instruction of a tutor and spent two years at Yale and two years at Princeton where he graduated in 1766. He then studied theology for one year, but preferring the profession of law turned his attention to the study of that subject and was admitted to the bar of Hartford County in 1771. From 1772 to 1775 he resided in Wintonbury and divided his time between farming and his chosen profession. In 1775 he sold his farm and devoted himself to the law at Hartford, where he rose rapidly to the position of one of the most prominent leaders of the Connecticut bar. Before the close of the year 1775 he was appointed State's Attorney. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War he was chosen to represent Windsor in the General Assembly. He was made one of a committee of four men called "The Committee of the Pay Table" whose chief duty it was to examine and settle all orders for the payment of military expenses. Elected in 1777 he took his seat in 1778 as one of Connecticut's six delegates to the Second Continental Congress then in session at Philadelphia and rendered many important services during the closing years of the Revolutionary War and until his resignation as a member of the Congress in June, 1783. The following year he became Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. Four years later his state sent him again to Philadelphia, this time as a member of the convention that drafted our Federal Constitution. His pre-eminent ability was at once recognized by his associates and he was one of the five men who guided the essential deliberations of the convention and wrote the Constitution itself.

When the national government was organized and put into operation under the new Constitution Mr. Ellsworth became one of the United States Senators from Connecticut and was appointed chairman of the committee to organize the national Judiciary. In this capacity he wrote the bill under whose provisions with only slight changes our national tribunals have carried on their great work ever since their organization. In 1796 he was appointed by Washington Chief Justice of the



OLIVER ELLSWORTH

Supreme Court of the United States as successor to John Jay. In this office he presided with dignity and ability. In 1799 President Adams sent him to Paris as one of three Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary to adjust the serious troubles that had arisen in the relations between France and the United States. Mainly through his efforts war with France was averted and all questions in dispute were adjusted in a spirit of friendship. In 1801 he returned to his home in Windsor with his health seriously impaired by his arduous public duties. He was soon induced to re-enter the public service in Connecticut and in May, 1807, was made Chief Justice. Failing health led him to resign the office and he died November 26, 1807.

His fine Colonial home in Windsor is now the state headquarters of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revo-

lution. The Windsor Chapter of this organization took its name in honor of Judge Ellsworth's wife and is known as the Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Judge Ellsworth's love for his home and his native land is well illustrated by the following statement made by him at the close of his active career: "I have visited several countries and I like my own the best. I have been in all the states in the Union, and Connecticut is the best state; Windsor is the pleasantest town in the state of Connecticut, and I have the pleasantest place in Windsor. I am content, perfectly content, to die on the banks of the Connecticut."

The following cut shows the Ellsworth Homestead as it looks today:



THE ELLSWORTH HOME



That Judge Ellsworth had prospered financially is attested by the following tax list dated August 20, 1806, a little more than one year before his death:

Oliver Ellsworth—

|                          |  |       |         |
|--------------------------|--|-------|---------|
| 1                        | Poll                                       | ----- | 60.     |
| 4                        | Cows                                       | ----- | 28.     |
| 2                        | Horses                                     | ----- | 20.     |
| 2                        | Acres plow land                            | ----- | 3.34    |
| 16                       | do Mowing & clear pasture                  | ----- | 21.44   |
| 3                        | do Boggy Med <sup>w</sup> Mow <sup>d</sup> | ----- | 2.52    |
| 2                        | do do do not do                            | ----- | .68     |
| 26                       | do Medow land                              | ----- | 65.     |
| 3                        | do Bush pasture                            | ----- | 1.2     |
| 78                       | do 2nd Rate                                | ----- | 13.26   |
| 35                       | do 3rd do                                  | ----- | 3.15    |
| 1                        | Carriage 4th rate                          | ----- | 30.     |
| 2                        | do 6th do                                  | ----- | 30.     |
| 1                        | Brass Clock                                | ----- | 20.     |
| 4                        | fire places 2nd Rate                       | ----- | 15.     |
| 4                        | do do 3rd do                               | ----- | 10.     |
| 1                        | Coach                                      | ----- | 75.     |
| Bank Stock \$60,000 @ 3% |  |       | -----   |
|                          |  |       | 1800.   |
|                          |  |       | <hr/>   |
|                          |  |       | 2198.41 |

His family of nine children played a prominent part in the history of their time. Oliver Ellsworth, Jr., after graduating from Yale and serving the college as a tutor, accompanied his father to France as his Secretary. His health failed soon afterward and he died at the age of 24. Martin Ellsworth inherited the homestead, where he resided until his death in 1857. William Wolcott Ellsworth became the leading lawyer in Hartford, represented his state for five years in Congress, was Governor of Connecticut four years, and later served as Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors until arriving at the age of 70 in 1861. He taught law at Trinity College; was an original incorporator of the American Asylum for the Deaf at Hartford and became president of its Board of Directors; was president of the Board of Directors of the Hartford Retreat

for the Insane; and was generally active in educational and religious work.

Another son of the Chief Justice, Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, studied law, was appointed by President Jackson Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Southwest, where he was accompanied by Washington Irving, who thus obtained material for his "Tour of the Prairies;" later he was placed at the head of the United States Patent office. Before his death he became the largest landowner and farmer in the West and made the prediction that the time would come when steam power would be used to plow the great prairies and harvest their crops. This statement was considered so strange and novel that after his death some of his heirs, dissatisfied with his will, in which he made a large bequest to Yale College, used it as an argument to prove that his mind was unsound and therefore his will ought to be disregarded.

#### DANIEL BISSELL

One of the documents preserved at Windsor contains a list of the names of soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War, among which appears the name of Daniel Bissell marked "deserter." One would expect that such a record would bar the name of Daniel Bissell from all thought of honorable recognition by the succeeding generations of loyal citizens of his native town. Far otherwise. Though the Windsor recorder who made the record was doubtless both honest and patriotic and simply set down what he received from proper authority in the army, nevertheless the record itself was false, designedly false, if other records can be believed. Why was the record ever made? The following story will explain the reason.

Daniel Bissell enlisted in the Continental army in the early days of the Revolution. He served throughout the war with credit for ability and distinction for courage, and in August, 1781, when General Washington wanted the most dependable and capable man available to secure information regarding the forces and plans of the British army then occupying New York city and part of Long Island, he turned to Daniel Bissell as he had turned to Nathan Hale in the earlier days of the war, under similar circumstances. To carry out his mission Bissell was

instructed to take with him an extra suit of clothing and to leave the American lines wearing his complete army uniform in order to give him the appearance of a deserter, and, at the same time, Washington had his name entered and published in the official returns as a deserter from the American army.

He was instructed to enter New York City where he was told he could get protection from the Mayor or the Police Department, which would enable him to go to Lloyd's Neck on Long Island, where he could secure employment as a wood chopper for the British. He was then to return to the British camps, view their fortifications, learn the number of regiments and the number of men in each, the number of heavy guns and other information of use to the American army. When all this business was completed an American boat was to be in readiness to assist him in his escape from Long Island and his return to Washington's camp.

The plans miscarried. The British had issued orders that no more protection should be given to deserters to escape enforced service in the British navy. Bissell enrolled as a British soldier in Benedict Arnold's regiment. He was soon stricken with a fever and sent to the hospital at Flushing. Here and in a barn to which he was later transferred he spent nine months in terrible suffering and neglect. In his delirium he betrayed the secret of his mission to his attending physician, a kind hearted man, who determined to aid him in escaping to his friends. From May, 1782, until the following September, while convalescing he did Quartermaster Sergeant's duty. Then, following the doctor's advice, Bissell took into his confidence a comrade, who also desired to escape, and the two men obtained permission from the officer of the guard to leave the lines in search of a pig that they pretended had strayed from the camp.

Accompanied by a boy they left the British camp and soon reached a narrow river, which they were obliged to swim. They then came to another river where they discovered a man in a row boat, whom they so frightened that he took them safely across. But by this time pursuers with bloodhounds were on their tracks and they were obliged to hide in a swamp

with only their heads above water. Finally their pursuers became discouraged and returned to camp thus allowing Bissell and his companions, after enduring terrible hardships, to reach the camp of Washington on September 29, 1782.

Here Washington told him that owing to the fact that he had been detained so long and to the further fact that the Congress had ordered that no more commissions should be given, he could not reward him as he would like to do, but he ordered him to report at headquarters where he received an honorary certificate and a badge of military merit, which were presented to him by Jonathan Trumbull, then serving with Washington as secretary. The badge of merit was presented in the following words:

“I, GEORGE WASHINGTON, Commander-in-Chief of the American Army, &c., &c.,

“To all to whom these Presents shall come, sendeth Greetings:

“Whereas it hath ever been an established maxim in the American Service, that the Road to Glory was open to all, that Honorary Rewards and Distinctions, were the greatest Stimuli to virtuous actions, and whereas Sergeant DANIEL BISSELL of the Second Connecticut Regiment, has performed some important service, within the immediate knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief, in which his fidelity, perseverance and good sense, were not only conspicuously manifested, but his general line of conduct throughout a long course of service, having been not only unspotted but highly deserving of commendation.

“Now, therefore, Know ye, that the aforesaid Sergeant BISSELL, hath fully and truly deserved, and hath been properly invested with, the Honorary Badge of Military Merit, and is entitled to pass and repass all Guards and Military Posts, as freely and as amply as any Commissioned Officer whatever; and is further Recommended to that Notice which a Brave and Faithful Soldier deserves from his Countrymen.

“Given under my hand and seal, in the Highlands of New York, this Ninth day of May, A. D. 1783

“Signed.

“GEORGE WASHINGTON.

“Registered,

“JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Secretary.”

A description of this badge of merit and the conditions which determined its award were made known in the following order which had been issued in 1782.

Headquarters, Newburgh,  
Wednesday, Aug. 7th, 1782

“Honorary Badges of distinction are to be conferred on the veteran non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the army who have served more than three years with bravery, fidelity, and good conduct: for this purpose a narrow piece of white cloth of an angular form is to be fixed to the left arm on the uniform coats. Non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have served with equal reputation more than six years are to be distinguished by two pieces of cloth set in parallel to each other in a similar form. Should any who are not entitled to these honors have the insolence to assume the badges of them, they shall be severely punished. On the other hand, it is expected those gallant men who are thus designated will on all occasions be treated with particular confidence and consideration.

“The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward. Before this favour can be conferred on any man, the particular fact or facts on which it is to be grounded must be set forth to the commander-in-chief, accompanied with certificates from the commanding officers of the regiment and brigade to which the candidate for reward belonged, or other incontestible proofs, and upon granting it, the name and regiment of the person, with the action so certified, are to be enrolled in the book of merit which will be kept at the orderly office. Men who have merited this last distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do.

“The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered as a permanent one.”

Daniel Bissell returned to Windsor after his discharge from the army, married Rhoda Hulburt December 30, 1789, and removed the next year with his father's family to Randolph, Vermont. From Vermont he moved again in 1810 to Richmond, New York, where he died August 15, 1824, and was buried with Masonic honors.

On a boulder at Hayden Station is a Bronze tablet with the following inscription:

BIRTHPLACE  
OF  
DANIEL BISSELL  
PATRIOT SPY  
OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
1754-1824  
CONN. SOC'Y. S. A. R.

The honor conferred upon Daniel Bissell by the award of the Badge of the Purple Heart was conferred upon only two other soldiers of the Revolutionary War, if tradition is correct, and both of these recipients were Connecticut men. We cannot learn that the award of such a badge was again considered until after the close of the World War, when Herbert Hoover, President of the United States, revived its use in honor of George Washington and in recognition of deeds of distinguished valor, and it is worthy of note that several Windsor men have recently been enrolled in the Order of Military Merit whose members are entitled to wear the distinguished badge of the Purple Heart.

#### ROGER ENOS

One of Windsor's outstanding military leaders during the period of the French and Indian War and the American Revolution was Roger Enos who was born in Simsbury in 1729. Well educated and a man of superior ability he was the leader

of the Windsor volunteers for the campaign against Canada in 1759 and 1760. He received numerous promotions for his service against the French and Indians. In 1762 he commanded part of the expedition against Havana. In 1773 he served as one of the commissioners to distribute land in the Mississippi Valley to the soldiers who had served in Canada and at Havana. In 1775 he started with Arnold on his ill fated expedition against Canada but was obliged to return with his troops to preserve them from starvation.

In 1777 he served Windsor as one of the committee appointed to secure a bounty of thirty pounds for every citizen of the town who should enter the continental service. Later he commanded a regiment of the soldiers he had helped to enroll. In 1779 he removed to "New Connecticut, alias Vermont" and became one of the original settlers of the town of Enosburg. Two years later he became Brigadier-General of all the Vermont troops then in service. From that time until his death in 1808 he served the state of his adoption in numerous positions of trust and responsibility and became one of the most prominent and influential figures in its early history, being elected a Major General of state troops, a member of the Board of War, a representative to the State Assembly, one of the committee to settle a long standing controversy with New Hampshire over the question of Vermont sovereignty and independence, a trustee of the University of Vermont and the State's representative for other distinguished services.

#### FRANCIS GILLETTE

In the parish of Wintonbury there was born on December 14, 1807, a boy destined to achieve distinction as one of the state's greatest humanitarian and educational leaders. His name was Francis Gillette. When he was six years of age he lost his father and his mother's second marriage gave him a stepfather who had little sympathy with his desire for an education.

At the age of fifteen he had the opportunity to attend an academy at Ashfield, Massachusetts, for one year which time he used so profitably that he was prepared to apply for

admission to Yale College the following year. His stepfather objected to his going on with his education and even his mother failed to give him encouragement and support. His determination, however, was made clear by his statement, "Well, mother, I must and will go to college, in spite of father or the devil." He went.

In college he ranked high in scholarship and graduated valedictorian of his class. He next studied law but gave it up on account of his health and devoted himself to scientific farming in Wintonbury. Eighteen years of life in the open air restored his health and he entered public life. In 1832 he represented Windsor in the General Assembly.

In May, 1835, Wintonbury was incorporated as a separate town, and at Mr. Gillette's suggestion, it was named Bloomfield. In 1838, he represented the new town in the General Assembly where he became a champion of the anti-slavery cause. In 1841 he was the Liberty Party's candidate for governor. For the next twelve years he devoted himself with zeal to the cause of freedom for the slave. In 1854 he was sent to the United States Senate where his first vote was cast against the Nebraska Bill. His service during the rest of his term ranked him among the ablest statesmen.

Returning to Connecticut he directed all his ability and eloquence against the traffic of intoxicating drinks. He was the recognized leader in local educational affairs and cooperated with Hon. Henry Barnard in his campaigns for educational reform and improvement. When the New Britain Normal School was organized he was selected as one of its trustees and soon became chairman of the Board of Management. Business affairs, public duties, and literary pursuits crowded his remaining years. He died September 30, 1879.

#### ANDREW MACK

The story of Andrew Mack, the Hessian soldier, who served in the patriot army, helped establish American independence, and founded one of the best known families in Windsor, deserves especial mention. He was born in Hanover, Germany, May 10, 1751, and on reaching the age for enlistment was enrolled in the German army. Under military orders,



which do not consult a soldier's willingness or unwillingness, he was sent to Dover, England, and there placed under the command of English forces embarking for America to take part in the Revolutionary War. He reached Quebec in the fall of 1776, joined Burgoyne's army in the spring of 1777, and took part in the campaign that ended in disaster for the British cause on the plains of Saratoga.

With many others he was taken prisoner by the Americans at Stillwater. From Stillwater the group of prisoners in which he was included were marched to Newgate Prison near Windsor. Released from prison in the spring of 1778 Mr. Mack came to Windsor, which appealed to him as a desirable place in which to make his future home.

In September, 1779, he enlisted in Sergeant Elisha Stoughton's Company and guarded the military stores of his adopted town. Later he enlisted again as a dragoon in Captain Seymour's Connecticut Company.

After the close of the war he married Sally Pease of Enfield and settled in Windsor, where he died on July 7, 1839. One of his sons was William, who was born May 31, 1783, at Windsor and married Charlotte Allyn, daughter of George Allyn, like Andrew Mack, a soldier in the patriot army. One of their sons was William Mack, 2nd, founder of the brick-making business, which is described in another chapter of this book.

A son of William Mack 2nd was William Russell Mack, also a brick maker, who in 1858 went to Springfield, Illinois, as foreman of a large brick yard owned by Eli Taintor, formerly of Windsor. Having introduced Windsor methods of brick-making into Illinois, Mr. Mack returned to Connecticut and for a time made brick in Wethersfield. The call for volunteers in the Civil War was answered by his enlistment in the Union army. In a short time he was sent home from his southern camp because of serious illness. At the close of the war he took up brickmaking for himself.

His four brothers, Henry C., Charles N., Daniel W., and Frederick W., were all brickmakers, tho not exclusively, for other occupations proved attractive. Daniel W. Mack, now

a highly respected citizen of Windsor, in his eighty-ninth year, engaged in business that led him to travel extensively and he identified himself with many interests designed to promote the welfare of his town.

Edward White Mack, son of William Russell Mack, became a brickmaker in his own name in 1891 and in 1911 took his son Edward White Mack, Jr., into partnership. The firm of Edward W. Mack & Son now carries on the industry established in 1830, which is probably the only industry in the town that has been carried on without interruption by one family for more than a hundred years.

A daughter of Daniel W. Mack, Miss Elizabeth Mack, has added distinction to the family name by her work as an actress and a teacher and director of dramatics and dramatic art. While she spends some time in Windsor each year her profession has for many years required her to spend most of the time at her studios in Paris and in New York.

#### HORACE H. HAYDEN

Horace H. Hayden, M. D., born at Hayden Station, October 13, 1769, became the most widely known member of an honorable profession which his energy and foresight created. As a boy he was precocious and was an ardent reader of the Bible at the age of four. At ten he began the study of the classics. In his youth he made several voyages to the West Indies. He became a devoted student of nature, including geology and mineralogy, studied architecture, engaged in business in the West Indies, in Connecticut, and in New York, and served as the first teacher of the First North School District in Hartford. About the year 1800 he became interested in dentistry, a profession then little developed. He conceived the idea of devoting himself to dental surgery. In 1804 he went to Baltimore, attended the medical school at the Maryland University, and acquired a thorough understanding of anatomy and extensive knowledge of medicine tho he did not finish the medical course.

After leaving college he rose so rapidly in his profession in Maryland that in 1809 he was asked to lecture on dentistry to the medical class of his university. The next year he was

made a member of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculties of Maryland. Largely through his efforts the "American Society of Dental Surgeons" was organized and later he was elected its president. Through his influence a dental college was opened at Baltimore in 1840 and he became its first president. He was honored with membership in many medical and scientific societies of the highest rank, wrote and published much on dentistry and science, and is called the "Father of the Dental Profession." A monument to his memory, erected under the auspices of the Hartford Dental Society, stands at the top of Stony Hill in his native town.

#### EDWIN D. MORGAN

When funds were being solicited for the building of the second Windsor Academy, which was completed in 1854, a letter was sent to a former Windsor boy, who had attended the first academy, and was then a prominent citizen of New York, soliciting his aid. A check for One Hundred Dollars was the immediate response and the donor, the Hon. Edwin D. Morgan, wrote affectionately of his boyhood days and reminded Mr. Henry Halsey, his friend in Windsor, that he had left the Ancient Town when he was seventeen years of age with two shillings and three pence in his pocket and had walked to the city of Hartford to begin work for his uncle Nathan Morgan as a general clerk in his store at a salary of Forty Dollars for the first year, Fifty Dollars for the second year, Sixty Dollars for the third year, and a chance to become his uncle's partner the next year.

That he had aptitude for his business is proven by many stories among which is the following. He was sent to New York to purchase small quantities of sugar, tea, coffee and other supplies for his uncle's store. On his return he reported that he had successfully carried out the entire schedule of his commission and then he added, "And I bought more. I bought a cargo of corn, a whole cargo!" "We are ruined," cried his uncle. "But," said the young clerk, "I sold it again and made more profit than you have made in your whole business during the past year."

In due time his uncle was glad to make him a partner and five years later he went to New York City and engaged in business for himself.

His rise to success, wealth, and eminence was steady and phenomenal. His trade both at home and in foreign markets was on an extensive scale and his prosperity, sound judgment, and proven integrity brought honors and preferment.

His political activities in behalf of the newly organized Republican Party made him chairman of the National Committee of that party. In this capacity he opened the Philadelphia convention that nominated John C. Fremont for president in 1856 and also the Chicago and Baltimore conventions that nominated Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and 1864. After serving New York as a state senator he was twice governor of the state, his second term covering part of the trying period of the Civil War. His preeminent success in that great crisis led to his appointment as a major general of volunteers with especial responsibility for the expenditure of many millions of dollars in the purchase of government rations, clothing, arms, and ordnance. His state also sent him to Washington as United States Senator and in 1865 President Lincoln asked him to accept the position of Secretary of the Treasury, a post that he decided to decline.

At the age of seventy his thoughts turned to the benevolent distribution of some of his great wealth. Sending for the president of Union Theological Seminary he told him that he wished to make a gift to that institution. When the president departed with bonds to the value of more than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars in his possession, Governor Morgan watched his carriage until it passed out of sight. Soon afterward he reported to a friend: "I am an old man. I have had a successful life and done about all that I had planned to do, and I supposed that I had been happy. But I know now that until I stood and watched Doctor Adams drive away with those bonds I had never known what happiness was. I can not regret too deeply that early in life I did not form the habit of giving."

## EDWARD ROWLAND SILL

Edward Rowland Sill was Windsor's most distinguished poet. He was born April 29, 1841, in a house now occupied by the Chaffee School for Girls on the east side of Palisado Green. At the age of eleven he lost his mother and when he was thirteen his father died. Fortunately the relatives with whom he lived in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Ohio directed his education wisely and he attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University. After graduation in 1861 he spent six months in Windsor and went to California where he remained five years without making choice of a vocation.

In 1866 he went to Ohio where in 1867 he married his cousin, Elizabeth Newberry Sill. He then attended Harvard Divinity School but finding himself dissatisfied with prevailing theological conceptions he decided to teach.



EDWARD ROWLAND SILL

From 1868 to 1871 he taught in the district schools of Ohio. In 1871 he went to Oakland, California, to teach in the high school. Later he became professor of English Literature

in the University of California. After twelve years in California he returned to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, the former home of his wife, and there engaged in literary work until his death, February 27, 1887.

Because of his retiring nature he failed to secure wide recognition of his literary talent in his lifetime but his fame has steadily increased in recent years and his poems are now given a high rank.

#### JOHN M. NILES

John M. Niles was born at Elm Grove August 20, 1787. He was educated in the local public school and by home study and the reading of law in the office of John Sargent. He wrote many political essays which were published in the American Mercury at Hartford. At the close of the War of 1812 he became the leader of the reform movement which swept over Connecticut and demanded extension of the right of suffrage, the abolition of the special legal rights and privileges enjoyed by the Congregational Church, the granting of equality before the law to all religious denominations, and the formation and adoption of a written constitution to take the place of the charter of 1662 which was still in force.

To promote his views and policies he with the support of his sympathizers founded the Hartford Times in January, 1817. For many years he was its editor. The revolution of 1818 and the adoption of the state constitution secured most of the results for which he had contended.

In 1821 he was appointed one of the judges of the court for Hartford County. In 1826 he represented Hartford in the General Assembly. In 1829 he became Postmaster at Hartford, a position which he resigned to become United States Senator in 1835. He held that office until 1839. The following year he became Postmaster-General in the cabinet of President Van Buren. In 1843 he returned to the Senate and served until 1849.

In opposition to the leaders of his party he became an ardent anti-slavery leader and helped establish the Hartford Press in 1856 to promote the anti-slavery cause. His last years were devoted to the organization of the new Republican Party.



JOHN M. NILES

As an author he produced many works of great merit including a Gazetteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island and a History of Mexico and the South American Republics.

As a part of Connecticut's Tercentenary Celebration his birthplace is to be marked with a bronze tablet donated by the Hartford Colony of the National Society of New England Women. The tablet is to be unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on October 9, 1935.

## JABEZ HASKELL HAYDEN

Jabez Haskell Hayden will be long remembered by every student of the early history of Old Windsor as the man whose researches more than those of any other historian have made us acquainted with the most reliable record pertaining to the early days of Windsor and her daughter towns.

He was born at Hayden Station December 20, 1811. When the Connecticut Silk Manufacturing Company was organized in Hartford in 1835, he entered the employ of the company and devoted himself to the study of the business with such zeal and success that in three years he was prepared to become a partner in an independent company.

Mr. Hayden used to relate the experiences of Connecticut in producing its own silk during those early years of the industry.

Soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, Dr. Ezra Stiles, president of Yale University, conceived the idea of raising mulberry trees in Connecticut and introducing silk worms in order to produce silk at home more economically than it could be imported from abroad. By the time Mr. Hayden first engaged in the silk business these trees had reached maturity and many people were engaged in producing silk cocoons for the market. In 1831, Mr. Hayden's father had set out on his farm one thousand white mulberry trees. Another tree imported from China was the *morus multicaulis*, a form of mulberry having a leaf as large as a cabbage leaf and requiring little labor to gather and feed to the silk worms. Many enthusiastic people in the Connecticut valley and in eastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island invested their money in the *morus multicaulis* in the hope of developing an extensive and lucrative industry. The Connecticut legislature voted a bounty to stimulate the growing of silk at home. Silk was produced, silk of a good quality, but at a cost that almost ruined the producer. The Connecticut Silk Manufacturing Company collapsed as did several other similar companies and domestic silk culture was at an end.

With this experience as a background, Mr. Hayden went to Windsor Locks in 1838 as a member of the firm of Haskell & Hayden and carried on a successful business importing silk and manufacturing silk thread until his retirement about 1881.

After 1881 he gave much of his time to the historical and genealogical studies for which he had both fondness and aptitude.



In 1886 he contributed chapters on Windsor History and Windsor Families to the Memorial History of Hartford County. Two years later he published the Genealogical Records of the Connecticut Line of the Hayden Family and in 1900 he completed a series of Historical Sketches which he had published by the Windsor Locks Journal. On many historic occasions he delivered historical addresses and was recognized as an authority on every subject that he discussed. He died at Windsor Locks December 1, 1902.



JABEZ HASKELL HAYDEN

## CHRISTOPHER MINER SPENCER

Christopher Miner Spencer was born in Manchester, Connecticut, on June 20, 1833. By the time he was eleven years old he showed a remarkable fondness for making things. During the next twenty years he had a wide experience in many machine shops and in Colt's Armory at Hartford. His first significant invention was an automatic winding machine which revolutionized the winding of silk. His chief interest centered in the possibilities of a repeating rifle. He perfected a gun of this type which was patented March 6, 1860, and placed at the service of the government. Gideon Wells, Secretary of the Navy, gave an order for 1,000 guns. After President Lincoln had personally tested the gun 200,000 were furnished to the army. That this gun, which as the Confederates said, "the Yankees loaded on Sunday for the rest of the week," was a deciding factor in the outcome of the Civil War has been stated by many who were in a position to know.

In 1882 he perfected the Spencer Repeating Shotgun, and adapted the new principles of this gun to his army rifle of Civil War fame with the result that he more than doubled the rapidity of its fire.

In May, 1883, the Spencer Arms Company was formed to manufacture this gun in Windsor in the south part of the well known Eddy Shop. Later Mr. Spencer sold the patent rights to the gun and turned his attention to the improvement of screw machines and produced the double turret automatic screw machine, later developed into the six spindle automatic now manufactured by the New Britain Machine Company.

As far back as 1862 he had built and successfully operated a steam wagon and used it in going to and from work in Manchester. It frightened some of the horses and the "Town Fathers" requested Mr. Spencer to "keep the car off the road." Forty years later he resumed interest in horseless carriages and the seven that he built in Windsor and two in Hartford attracted much attention. When his son Roger ran one of these steam buggies to New York in 1901, the Hartford Times commented favorably on the fact that the car averaged thirteen miles an hour on indifferent roads.

In 1910 Mr. Spencer moved to Hartford, where he died February 14, 1922.

#### RICHARD NILES

Richard Niles, born at Elm Grove (then Poquonock) February 23, 1785, began the manufacture of paper in 1825 in a mill erected on land a short distance south of the present home of Allison H. Brown. A few years later this mill was used for the manufacture of silk thread. Then paper making was resumed. Finally the mill was transformed into a grist mill and saw mill and continued in use until about 1860 when Alexander Clapp, its last proprietor, ceased to operate it.

Mr. Niles represented Windsor in the General Assembly and was one of the town's most influential citizens. He died June 19, 1846.

#### THE GRISWOLD FAMILY

The early records of those who were active in public affairs both in times of peace and in times of war, contain the name of Griswold more frequently than almost any other name. As many as seventeen officers and privates of this name served in the Revolutionary War.

Two brothers, Edward and Matthew Griswold, came to Windsor in 1639 with the Rev. Ephraim Huit. They were men of education and property and thus entitled to be addressed as "Mister."

Matthew, the younger of the brothers, married Anna Wolcott of Windsor and removed to Saybrook, where he became a prominent citizen and the leading man in Lyme when that town was separated from Saybrook.

From Matthew Griswold of Lyme descended an illustrious line of public men, including Matthew Griswold, Governor of Connecticut in 1784-85; Roger Griswold, member of congress, 1795-1805, and Governor of Connecticut, 1811-13; and at least ten governors of other states, thirty-six judges of the higher courts, and a long list of men eminent in other professions; whose history was compiled in 1884 and would doubtless be greatly augmented today after the passing of another half century.

Edward Griswold remained in Windsor for a time and settled at Poquonock (now Elm Grove). His home was on the beautiful site where the home of Allison H. Brown now stands. From him are descended the many Griswolds of Windsor.

About 1663 Edward Griswold and his younger children removed to Hommonoscett, now Clinton.

Of the present generation Harry C. Griswold is one of the prominent tobacco growers of the town, interested in public affairs, having represented Windsor in the legislature.

#### RUEL CROMPTON TUTTLE

Windsor's most widely and best known painter is Ruel Crompton Tuttle. His father, the Rev. Reuel H. Tuttle, rector of Grace Episcopal church, was ambitious that his son should become an architect. With this end in view he entered the Boston School of Technology in 1891. While there he developed a strong and keen interest in painting as the result of his association with Ross Turner, one of his instructors. Still he did not abandon the idea of becoming an architect and from Boston he went to Paris to continue his study of architecture under Henri Duray. In Paris as in Boston it was art that furnished his greatest fascination. He studied drawing at the Academie Julian and spent the summer months in Southern France painting in water colors. Upon his return to America he exhibited his paintings in the galleries of Doll and Richards in Boston. His paintings won instant favor and found many purchasers.

He continued his studies in New York under H. Siddons Mowbray, Kenyon Cox, and J. Alden Weir and in 1897 opened a studio in Windsor. The next year he studied in Paris and London and painted in the Chateau District of Lorraine. Back at home again in 1899 he resumed work in his Windsor studio and for two years taught art in Miss Williams' Institute besides conducting private classes at his studio. In 1901 he painted in Italy. In 1904 he opened a studio in Hartford and for several years specialized in mural paintings and portraits in oil. Later he decided to devote himself mostly tho not exclusively to water color work.

His paintings have been received with favor when exhibited at the St. Louis Exposition, the Panama-Pacific Exposition, the Corcoran Art Gallery, the Worcester Art Museum, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and many similar art galleries in the great cities of the country.

His mural decorations are found in many beautiful homes, churches, and public buildings. His oil portraits of two presidents of Trinity College and many prominent Connecticut and New England people testify to his established reputation in centers of art and culture. His home town is proud of his painting of John Fitch, which hangs in the lobby of the John Fitch High School.

In recent years his professional interests have led him to make his home at the Weldon Hotel in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and he has made many European tours in quest of scenes and subjects such as he loves to paint for his friends and patrons in America.

#### EVELYN BEATRICE LONGMAN BATCHELDER

Mrs. Evelyn Beatrice Longman Batchelder, wife of Headmaster Nathaniel Horton Batchelder of the Loomis Institute, has made many outstanding contributions to the artistic and historic life of her adopted town. She is recognized as one of the leading artists of the country, being the first woman sculptor to be made a full member of the National Academy of Design. She carries on her work in the finely equipped studio she and her husband built on the Loomis School grounds.

Her early studies in art were carried on at the Chicago Art Institute under the direction of the distinguished Lorado Taft. Later she was for some time associated with Daniel Chester French in New York and assisted in some of his most famous productions.

Since coming to Windsor she has filled many important commissions both in this country and abroad, but to Windsor she stands preeminent for her generous services donated in the production of three of the town's most cherished artistic and historic memorials. The first was the Windsor War Memorial, a bronze eagle, emblematic of freedom and fortitude, dedi-



WINDSOR WAR MEMORIAL

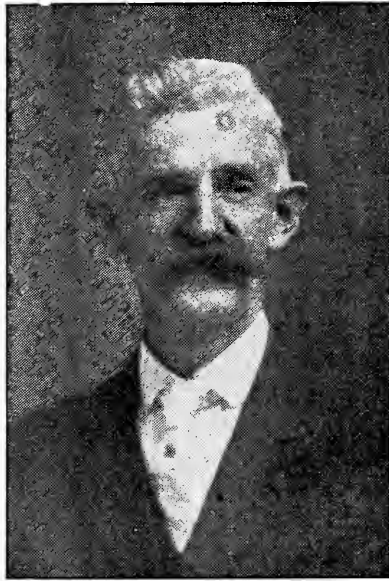
cated "TO THE PATRIOTS OF WINDSOR," the soldiers and sailors who have fought in Windsor's defence from the date of its settlement in 1633 to the date when the memorial was erected in 1929, together with the statesmen and distinguished citizens who have brought honor to the town. This monument stands on Windsor Green, a short distance north of the Public Library and is illuminated at night by a specially provided electric flood light.

The second monument stands on Palisado Green and was dedicated May 31, 1930, on the occasion of the opening ceremonies of the Tercentenary Celebration of the founding of the oldest Congregational Church in America and the migration of its pastor and congregation to New England. It is both massive and graceful and consists of three heavy granite slabs standing on a base of the same material. The central slab carries a bronze model of the *Mary and John*, the ship that brought the pioneer congregation across the seas to Massachusetts Bay, from which they migrated again to build a new home on the spot now marked by this memorial. Besides the names of the original pioneers, who came in search of religious freedom, the monument bears this inscription:

"To the Founders of Windsor and the First Congregational Church in Connecticut, which came to America in the *Mary and John* with its pastor, John Warham, May 30, 1630, settled in Dorchester, Mass., and migrated to Windsor in May and October, 1635. This memorial is erected on the site of the first church building in Connecticut by the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Connecticut Branch, May 30, 1930."

The third memorial is a beautiful relief of the Madonna and child placed in Grace Episcopal Church in the fall of 1934.

The neighboring city of Hartford also has three recognized masterpieces designed and executed by Mrs. Batchelder—the Spanish War Memorial, a short distance from the Capitol, the Workman at the State Trade School, and the heroic relief of two horses and riders on the Federal Building.



JULIUS E. RANSOM

Among the modest, unpretentious men, who have spent a long life in Windsor contributing time, energy, and money to promote every form of community welfare, Julius E. Ransom was one of the most widely known and most thoroly respected.

Born in Windsor, July 11, 1859, he received his early education in the public schools, and at the age of thirteen was called upon to help support his widowed mother and her five children. Later he attended the Hartford High School. At the age of nineteen he secured employment in a tobacco warehouse and two years later was made foreman, a position that he held for nine years, after which he decided to learn the carpenter's trade and became a builder and contractor.

Still later he became a tobacco grower and a buyer for such firms as the L. B. Haas Company, the Rollin Mills Company, the Pierre Lorillard Company, and the Sumatra Tobacco Company, which caused him to travel extensively and become widely known. His main interests, however, concerned the town of Windsor and Windsor citizens were his beneficiaries.



He was among the first to promote the idea of a local bank and became one of the first directors and later vice-president of the Windsor Trust Company. He served devotedly as chairman of the committee that built the John Fitch High School. He contributed generously to every worthy cause and maintained that the greatest happiness in life came from helping others.

Freely he gave his services to enterprises ranging from the placing of a public Christmas tree upon the village green to the serious public problems of town government. As a trustee of the Methodist Church, fire commissioner, leader in club and lodge work, and councilor and worker in enterprises for social and civic improvement, he literally exhausted himself for the public good.

He died May 13, 1927.

#### H. SIDNEY HAYDEN

H. Sidney Hayden was one of Windsor's outstanding benefactors. As a young man he first engaged in business in a country store, then he went south to join his brother Nathaniel, who was in business in Charleston, South Carolina, and in 1843 became head of the firm, which dealt in "Jewelry and Military Goods."

Shortly before the Civil War, due it is said, to the disturbing conditions of those critical days, he returned to Windsor, where his business ability and public spirit made him one of the town's most prominent and most influential citizens.

He served his town in both branches of the legislature and served a whole generation as judge of probate. He was one of the trustees that built the Connecticut Institution for the Insane at Middletown and for many years served as chairman of the board that managed its affairs.

He established the Young Ladies' Seminary at Windsor and was a trustee and treasurer of the Loomis Institute. He sponsored the efforts that led to the organization of Windsor's first volunteer fire company, organized and promoted the Windsor Water Company, donated a home for the town's poor, and was generally among the foremost in promoting every civic

improvement of his day. In the church to which he belonged—Grace Episcopal—he was an active worker and liberal contributor.

#### STANTON F. BROWN

Few men in all of Windsor's long history have served the town as devotedly and unselfishly as did Stanton F. Brown. After completing his education he taught in the public schools for a few years. Then he took up farming and was a prominent tobacco grower, later diversifying his farm crops, but always he found time for public affairs.

He served as grand juror, justice of the peace, and member of the board of relief. In 1915 and again in 1917 he represented Windsor in the legislature. From 1909 to 1932, with the exception of three years, 1921-2-3, when he declined to serve, he was chairman of the Town School Committee and gave freely of his time and energy for the promotion of good schools.

From 1932 until October, 1934, he held the office of First Selectman and worked beyond his strength in the public interest. In July of the latter year he was obliged to relinquish his duties, broken in health, and he died at his home in Elm Grove on November 4th, 1934.

#### LELAND P. WILSON

For a generation Leland P. Wilson has been the leading citizen of Wilson village and one of the most prominent men in the civic affairs of his town.

When quite young he entered the employment of the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company as a clerk, in March, 1891. His promotion testified to his ability and success in his chosen work and when he retired from the service of this company, July 1, 1921, he had for seven years been Superintendent of the Loss Department having responsibility for the adjustment of losses totaling from four to five million dollars annually. Since his retirement he has acted as local agent for the Ætna group of insurance companies taking care of a large part of the insurance in his community.

In civic affairs he has been a leader in bringing about the adoption of a much needed Building Code and a system of

**Zoning Regulations.** He contributed largely to the movement that resulted in a revaluation of the town property based on an aerial survey. He was responsible for the success of the movement that enabled the Windsor Fire District to receive water from the Hartford Water Supply. From its inception he has been active in the affairs of the Wilson Fire District, which has charge of Sewers, Sidewalks, and certain aspects of local sanitation. At present he is serving on the town board of finance, the zoning commission, and the official staff of the Metropolitan District.

THE REV. DR. FREDERICK W. HARRIMAN

Dr. Harriman served as rector of Grace Church in Windsor from March 1, 1886, to May 1, 1916, a period of time that is said to constitute one of the longest rectorships in Connecticut. He was born in Crawfordville, Indiana, educated at the Hartford High School, Trinity College, and the Berkeley Divinity School at Middletown, Connecticut.

Before coming to Windsor he had served as assistant in St. James' Church Winsted, and St. Andrew's church, Meriden, and had been rector of Trinity Church, Portland, Connecticut.

Before entering Berkeley Divinity School he had taught one year at the Chehire Academy and this experience was of value in later years when he became a member of the Town School Committee, which managed the schools of Windsor. For many years he was the leader of the Windsor Literature Club and the Windsor Library Association and extended a helpful and stimulating influence upon the scholarship and culture of the community.

He was a Fellow of Trinity College and a trustee of the Berkeley Divinity School and the Loomis Institute.

Among the honors conferred upon him was the degree of Doctor of Divinity, conferred by his Alma Mater, Trinity College.

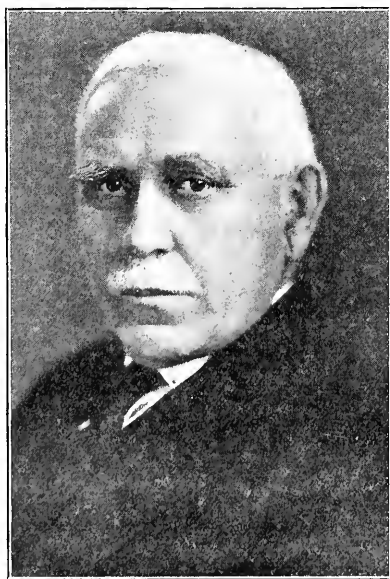
After he resigned as rector of Grace Church he made his home with his three children, dividing his time among them, until his death at the home of his son, Lewis S. Harriman, in Buffalo, New York, February 19, 1931.

## THE REV. ROSCOE NELSON

The Rev. Roscoe Nelson, pastor of the First Church of Windsor, is a native of the town of Canaan in the State of Maine. After preparing for college at the Maine Central Institute in the town of Pittsfield he entered Bates College in the fall of 1883 and graduated with the class of 1887, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Having had teaching experience in the district schools of Maine before graduating from college he continued in school work for two years after graduation as the principal of the High School at Putnam, Connecticut.

He then entered the Divinity School at Yale from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1892. Before his graduation from Yale he had filled vacation appointments as a preacher in Hillsboro, Wisconsin, and Buffalo, New York, and had supplied the pulpit at Windsor. As a result of his visits Windsor he was called to become pastor of the First Church in April, 1892, and entered upon his duties at the close of the school year.



THE REV. ROSCOE NELSON

Photo by Broderick

During his long pastorate he was active and prominent in civic and educational affairs as well as in his pastoral field. He served many years on the School Committee, was chosen head of the local Red Cross organization and President of the Public Library Association, two positions that he still holds, and gave freely of his time and energy for the promotion of many community enterprises.

He resigned his active duties as pastor to take effect July 1, 1932, forty years from the time he assumed those duties. He was made Pastor Emeritus and now makes his home in Hartford. Since his retirement from the pastorate he has been active in promoting an interest in the League of Nations, the World Court, and other agencies for establishing peace and encouraging cooperation among peoples and nations.



## MAURICE KENNEDY

Under the caption of "The Town Court of Windsor" we have already made reference to the remarkable record of Windsor's veteran constable and present deputy sheriff. Maurice Kennedy is devoted to the welfare of the town in which he was born and has spent all his years. Nature endowed him with a talent for investigation and discovery that has made him one of the most successful detectives the town has ever known. Fearless in the face of danger and resolute in the defense of law and order, he possesses ideal qualifications as a guardian of the peace and safety of the community.

His popularity and the esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens are attested by the fact in recent elections his name has been placed upon the ballot by both the Democrats and the Republicans.



MAURICE KENNEDY

# Episodes

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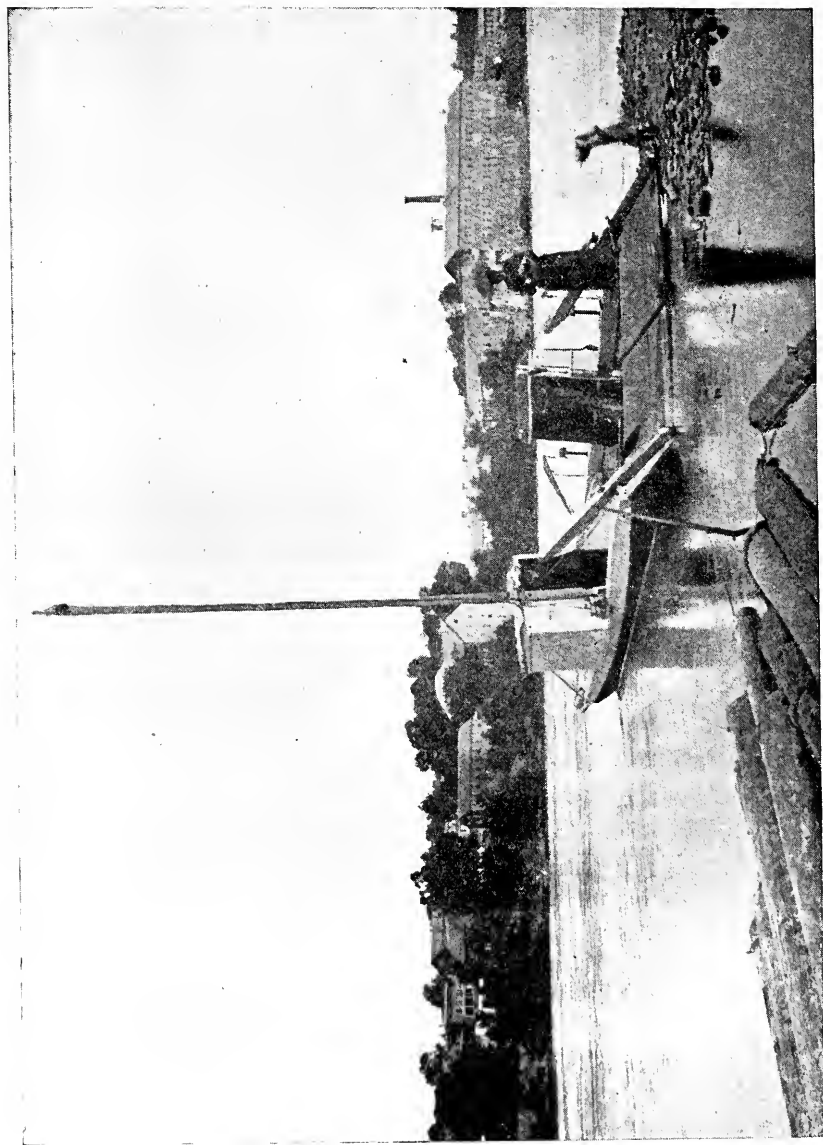
Glimpses along the course that Windsor has traveled during her first three hundred and two years of history will give vividness and personality to what might otherwise seem abstract and impersonal. Some of those that follow are serious, some humorous; some are trivial, some of more importance.

## Bissell's Ferry and Other Ferries

What proved to be the most famous ferry in Connecticut was established in 1649 between points on the east and west banks of the Great River at Windsor. The subject of such a ferry had been before the General Court as early as January, 1642, when the Court decreed that if the people of Windsor would provide a ferry boat for use on the river they should be allowed three pence for transporting a single passenger across the river, and two pence per person when the boat carried more than one at a time, and twelve pence for each horse carried over.

There appears to be no record of any definite action by the people of Windsor until 1649 when the Court made a contract with John Bissell "to keep and carefully attend the Ferry over the Great River at Windsor, for the full term of seven years from this day, and that he will provide a sufficient Boat for the carrying over of horse and foot upon all occasions. . . . for which the said John Bissell is to have of those that he ferries over, eight pence for every horse or mare, and two pence for every person that goes over therewith, or that hath another passenger to go over the said Ferry at the same time; and three pence for every person that goes over the Ferry alone, single, or without any more than himself at the same time."

The ferry landing was located about sixty rods north of the Ellsworth homestead on the west bank of the river. The landing on the east side was near what later became the old



THE WINDSOR LOCKS AND WAREHOUSE POINT FERRY



stone quarry company's wharf. About 1665 the location of the landings was fixed about one mile farther south and there they remained as long as the ferry continued in operation.

It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of this ferry in colonial days, but gradually the need for its service diminished and the frequency of its trips was reduced until in the early years of the present century the boat ran at irregular intervals, sometimes remaining unused for many days at a time, until October 1, 1917 when its use was discontinued officially though by special arrangement the boat was used as late as the fall of 1921 to carry the Windsor Historical Society across the river on a pilgrimage.

In the early days there were other ferries across both the Farmington and the Connecticut rivers but none of them ever played the important part or achieved the fame ascribed to Bissell's Ferry.

In the colonial days the ferry across the Farmington from Ferry Lane to the south bank about a quarter of a mile southeast of the First Congregational Church rendered a necessary and important service.

Another ferry of considerable significance for some years was the Wolcott Ferry established about 1736 from Plymouth Meadow across the Farmington and connecting with another ferry across the Connecticut to the east side where it was met by a great new highway, extending east to Tolland and known in later years as the "Governor's Road."

Farther north a charter was granted in 1783 to James Chamberlain for a ferry between what is now Windsor Locks and Warehouse Point. This ferry changed hands many times before 1885 when it was sold to the Windsor Locks and Warehouse Point Bridge and Ferry Company for \$20,000. The new company built a suspension bridge across the Connecticut River during that same year and the ferry was discontinued.

### A Tax List

The following exhibits Governor Wolcott's fondness for expressing himself in rhymn.

#### THE LIST OF MR. ROGER WOLCOTT'S RATEABLE ESTATE IN FORMER DAIES.

Sparkish Listers, alias Misters  
That do take the List  
That you may here attend with feare  
And be exceeding whist.

Acres of meadow land I've foure  
But know withall it is but poor  
Three quarters of one acre more  
Have I to add unto the score.

I have a horse, but he's so thin  
His bones appear most threu his skin  
A winter milks, and new milk kine  
I like wise have and two poor swine.

A yearling calf, a pretty creature.  
Handsom in carriage and in feature  
Another calfe I had last yeare  
But where he's now I cannot heare.

Which fills my heart with siths and groans,  
For feare the croos have picked his bones,  
He was so poor before he died  
They gather gauped for his hide  
But now hee's gone both he and I  
In sorrow both a Sympathy.

Pray take this for a perfect list  
For I think there's nothing mist  
That doth belong to my estate  
For which I ought to bear a Rate.

#### How Calves Were Identified

#### STRAYED OUT OF THE SUBSCRIBER'S

pasture in Simsbury, some time last fall, two young creatures, marked with a top cut in the off ear, and two slits in the near ear. Whoever has taken up said creatures and will return them to the owner or send him word so that he may have them

again shall have a handsome reward and charges paid, by  
Silvanus Griswold.

Windsor, December 28, 1775.

—Advertisement in the Hartford Courant.

**Fixing Prices**

At a Meeting of the Civil Authority & Select Men of the Town of Windsor in the County of Hartford on the 20<sup>th</sup> Day of March—Anno Domini 1778. The following Prices Were Affixed to the Articles Hereafter Named Agreeable to The Statute of this State in Such Cases Made and Provided. (Viz) To Tavern Keepers

|                              |           |                                      |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| West India Rum               | L s d     | All Other Things Sold                |           |
| by the Point                 | 0 3 8     | or Done by the Tavern                | }         |
| by the Half Point            | 0 1 10    | Keeper in the Same                   |           |
| by the Gill                  | 0 0 11    | Proportion to the Arti-              |           |
| by the Half Gill             | 0 0 6     | cles Above Mentioned                 |           |
| Flip by the Mugg             | 0 2 0     | Good Well Washed                     | }         |
| by the Half Mugg             | 0 1 0     | Skeeps of the Best                   |           |
| Toddy by the Pale            | 0 2 0     | Quallity by the Pound                | 0 4 0     |
| by the Half D <sup>o</sup>   | 0 1 0     | Ditt <sup>o</sup> of Inferior Quall- | }         |
| Other Distilled Sperits      |           | ity in Just Proportion               |           |
| by the Point                 | 0 2 7     | Common While full <sup>d</sup>       | }         |
| by the Half D <sup>o</sup>   | 0 1 4     | Cloath Sheared &                     |           |
| by the Gill                  | 0 0 8     | Pressed of One Yard                  |           |
| by the Half D <sup>o</sup>   | 0 0 4     | Wide Before Mil <sup>d</sup> and     |           |
| Flip by the Mugg             | 0 1 6     | Other full <sup>d</sup> Cloath       | }         |
| by the Half D <sup>o</sup>   | 0 0 9     | According to the Col-                |           |
| Toddy by the Pale            | 0 1 6     | ler, Quallity & Wedth                | }         |
| by the Half D <sup>o</sup>   | 0 0 9     | in Prop <sup>er</sup>                |           |
| Syder by the Mugg            | 0 0 6     | Common White flanel of               | }         |
| November Syder by the        |           | One Yard Wide by y <sup>e</sup> d    |           |
| Mugg Till the first of       | 0 0 4     | Methiglin by the Quart               | 0 " 5 " 0 |
| January                      |           | by the Point                         | 0 2 2     |
|                              | L s d     | by the Half D <sup>o</sup>           | 0 1 1     |
|                              |           |                                      | 0 0 7     |
| One Yoak of Oxen on          |           | Victuals by the Meat of              | }         |
| Hay by the Night or          | 0 " 2 " 3 | the first Quallity &                 |           |
| 24 Hours                     |           | first Cult Dinner                    | 0 1 6     |
| Ditt <sup>o</sup> on Grass   | 0 1 6     | Other Meals of Different             | }         |
| Ditt <sup>o</sup> Bateing    | 0 0 8     | Quallity & c Inpropor-               |           |
| Flax or Hamp Well            |           | tion                                 | }         |
| Dressed p <sup>r</sup> Pound | 0 " 1 " 4 | Lodging p <sup>r</sup> Night         |           |
|                              |           |                                      | 0 5 0     |

|  |         |  |             |
|--|---------|--|-------------|
| If Clean Sheats are Re-<br>quired & Provided at<br>Particular Request                      | } 0 0 0 | Common To Cloath one<br>Yard Wide & Mar-<br>chantable  | } 0 " 3 " 4 |
| Oats by the Mess   | 0 0 4   | Whitred Ditt <sup>o</sup>  | 0 3 10      |
| Horse Keeping by the<br>Night or 24 Hours  | 0 1 6   | Good Yard Wide Chest   | } 0 6 0     |
| Ditt <sup>o</sup> on Grass   | 0 1 0   | Linnen Made of Yarn  |             |
| Horse Bateing  | 0 0 4   | Weighing No More<br>then Three Run to the<br>Pound   |             |
| Common Chest flannel of<br>One Yard Wide p <sup>r</sup> y <sup>d</sup>                     | } 0 6 0 | All Other Linning in<br>Proportion to Those<br>Above Stated Accord-<br>ing to Wedth and<br>Quality |             |
| All other Chest Walling<br>Cloaths in Proportion<br>to the Above Accord-<br>ing to Quality | }       |  |             |

### A Case of Theft

To Henry Allyn Esq<sup>r</sup> Just<sup>l</sup> peac<sup>l</sup> in and for Hartford County  
Com<sup>e</sup> John Thrall Jun<sup>r</sup> of Said Windsor in s<sup>d</sup> County  
Grandjuror of the Governor and Company of the State of  
Connecticut, in and for Hartford County, and upon His Oath  
Presents, that Alexander ————— of Said Windsor, Not Have-  
ing the fear of God Before His Eyes But Being Instigated by  
the Divil Did in a felonious Manner on the Evening after the  
23<sup>d</sup> Day of February Last At Symsbury in Said Hartford  
County Take and Steel from Benjamin Thrall of Said Syms-  
bury About one Gallon of Rum that the Said Thrall Had then  
in His Care and Custaday that that was then When Taken  
Drawn Out of a Juge that was in Said Thralls Barn, by Said  
————— or Some Other Evelminded Persen then and their  
in Company with Said ————— all which is against the Peace  
of Said State of Connecticut and in Contempt of the Laws of  
Said State. Dated at Windsor this 11<sup>th</sup> Day of March ADom  
1777

Witnesses for the State

Benj<sup>a</sup> Thrall  
Simeon Lewis

John Thrall 2<sup>d</sup> } Grandjuror

March 24<sup>th</sup> 1777 then by Virtue of the  
within Writ I arrested the Body of the  
Within Named Def<sup>t</sup>, Read y<sup>e</sup> within  
Complaint & Writ in his hearing and

now have him in Court

Test Joab Griswold Constable

A person convicted of theft paid the owner of the stolen goods treble their value and in addition was liable at the discretion of the court to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

### Restraining Horses and Cattle

At a Town Meeting Holden at Windsor on the 20<sup>th</sup> Day of March Anno Dom 1797 by Adjournment from the 3<sup>d</sup> Day of the Same Month and Leagally Warned for the Purpose of Making By Laws for Restraining Horses Cattel . . . . Swine Sheep and Geese or any of them from going at Large in Said Town and for Restraining Such as Shall Go at Large . . . .

Be it Ordained and Enacted by the Town of Windsor in Lawfull Town Meeting Assembled, that No Horses Cattel . . . . Swine, Sheep or Geese Shall be Allowed to Go at Large on the High way, Common, or Unincloased Land, in Said Town, nor Shall any of the Cretures Aforesaid Lie or feed upon the unincloased Lands that Are Privet Property without Permission of the Owner thereof With a Keeper. And if Any Horses Cattel . . . . Swine or Sheep be fownd Going at Large on Said High way, Common, or Unincloased Land, or Shall Lye or feede on Aforesaid it Shall be the Duty of the Howard, Appointed by Said Town and it Shall be Lawefull for Any Propriator or Holder of Land, in Said Town or by Their Order to Impound Said Horses Cattel . . . . Swine or Sheep in the Pound Within Sd Town Nearest the Place Where Taken, and the Owner or Owners of Such Horses Cattel . . . . or Swine Shall Pay the Sum of Eleven Cents for Each Horse Ox or Other Neat Kine . . . . or Swine Before the Same Shall Be Released from Said Pound Three Quarters Thereof to the Person or Persons Who Shall Impound Said Horses . . . . or Swine and One Quarter to the Pound Keeper for his fee, and the Owner or Owners of Such Sheep Shall Pay the Sum of One Cent and four Mills for Each Sheep Before the Same shall be Released from Said Pownd and Three Quarters thereof Shall be to the Person or Persons who Shall Impound Said Sheep and One Quarter to the Pound Keeper for his fees . . . .

### Attaching Part of a House

Windsor Jany 3d A D1789

Then I repaired with this Execution to the Usual place of abode of the within named Debtor and demanded money goos or chattles whereon to Levy to Satisfy this Execution and my fees thereon and as none were shewn to me by Direction of the Creditor I Levied Sd Execution on one hundred & 56 square feet on the floor of Sd Dwelling house in which the Sd Debtor now lives beginning for the East Bound on a part of Sd House this Day Set out to Wm. & George Bull Extending Lengthways Nine feet & 9 Inches and wedthway of the House 16 feet together with the Land Directly before Sd part of Sd house and on the same Day the Sd Credtor & Debtor maid choise of Messrs Ebenezer F. Bissell David Elsworth and Josiah Bissell to apprize the above described front of Sd house and Land who Did on Sd Day apprize Sd 156 Square feet of Sd house with all the privileges from the Top of Sd house to the Center of the Earth together with the Sd Land at 19-14-6 L money 19S of which being cost & my fees in full satisfaction of Sd Execution & my fees.

Test Levi Hayden Const

This Certifies that we Did Aprize the above Described 156 square feet on the floor of the Debtors House and Land Above mentioned at 20-13-6 & no more in full satisfaction of this Execution & Cost.

|      |                 |   |              |
|------|-----------------|---|--------------|
| Test | Josiah Bissell  | } | Free Holders |
|      | Ebnr F. Bissell |   |              |
|      | David Elsworth  |   |              |

Windsor Jan 3d 1789 then I Recvd the above Described Part in Sd House of the Hand of Levi Hayd Const in full satisfaction of this execution & all cost

Tst Alex Wolcott Junr  
Att for the creditor

The above named freeholders had the Aprizors oath administered to them by me

O Elsworth a Judge of Supr Court.

### Profane Swearing

(Name of accused changed.)

To Henry Allyn Esqr. Justice of The Peace Within & for Hartford County Come Elihu Drake one of the Constables of the Town of Windsor for This Currant Year and upon His Oath Presents That one Richard Doe Second of Said Windsor at Said Windsor Did Profainely Swear . . . . That Loomis Warner of Said Windsor Then and Their Present Should not Tel him That he Ought to be in the Stone Jugg and Did Allso Then and Their Utter Many Other Such Like Vain and Wicked Words and Speaches He The Said Richard Did Then and Their utter and Speak Against the Peace of the State of Connecticut and the Laws of Said State Dated at Windsor this 15th Day of May A Dom 1799

Elihu Drake Constable

March 9th 1795 Recd. of Joab Griswold, Treasurer for the Sain owners in the Parish of Poquonock, six shillings money in full for the use of my Cannooe to Sain in one Season.

p Nath Griswold

To Henry Allyn Esqr<sup>r</sup> Just<sup>l</sup> of the Peac<sup>l</sup> for Hartford County Come Ebenezer Haydon of Windsor in Said Hartford County and One of the Grandjurors for Said Town of Windsor for this Currant Year and upon his Oath Presents that a Certain Trantient Person Whose Name is unknown to your Informer was upon the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of October ADom 1799 it Being the Sabeth or Lords Day Guilty of unnesscesaryly Driveing His Horse & Horse Cart Partly Loaded With Brooms and Other Loading Three Miles in the Town of Windsor Travilling Through the Town of Windsor, and Refusing to Give your Complainer any Reasonable Satisfaction of the Nessaty of his So Travilling All Which Conduct of Said Trantient Person is Contara<sup>ry</sup> to the Peice of the State of Connecticut and in Direct Contempt of One Statute Law of Said State Entitled an Act for the Due Observation of the Sabeth or Lords Day Whereupon your Informer Prays Due Prosses May be Had Against Said Trantient Person. Dated at Windsor this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of October ADom 1799 \_\_\_\_\_

Eben<sup>r</sup> Haydon

To Either of the Constables of the Town of Windsor in Hartford County Greeting

By Authority of the State of Connecticut you Are Hereby Commanded fourth With to Arrest the Body of the above Described Trantient Person Now in the Custada of the Above Named Grandjuror and Him Safely to Keep and Have to Appear Before Me the Subscriber at my Dwelling House in Said Windsor as Soon as May be then and their to be Made to Answer to the Above Complaint and be further Delt with in the Premises as to Law and Justice Appertains Hereof fail not and of this Writ Make Due Return According to Law with your Doing thereon

Dated at Windsor this 28th Day of October 1799

Henry Allyn Just<sup>1</sup> Peac<sup>1</sup>

Windsor October 28<sup>th</sup> 1799 Then by Vertue of the Within Precept I arrested the Body of the Within Described Trantient Person and Have him Present Before the Court

Test Elihu Drake Constabl

Fees 50 Cents

|                    |      |      |
|--------------------|------|------|
| Officer fees       |      | 50   |
| Complaint & Writ   |      | 50   |
| Gran <sup>d</sup>  | Cost | 34   |
| Keper <sup>s</sup> | “    | 2 0  |
| Court fee          | “    | 0 50 |
|                    |      | —    |
|                    |      | 3 84 |
|                    | fine | 2 00 |
|                    |      | —    |
|                    |      | 5 84 |

To Henry Allyn Esq Just<sup>1</sup> of the Peac<sup>1</sup> Within and for—Hartford County

Com<sup>s</sup> Elijah Mills Jun<sup>r</sup> of Windsor in S<sup>d</sup> Hartford County and One of the Grandjuror of Said Town of Windsor for this Currant Year and upon his Oath Presents that One James Cook of Hartford in Said Hartford County Did on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of November Instant Unnessarily Travil from Said Town of Hartford to the Town of Windsor, it Being the Sabbath or Lords Day All Which Conduct of the Said James is Against the Peac<sup>1</sup> of the State of Connecticut and in Direct Contempt of



One Certain Statute Law of Said State Entitled an Act for the Due Observation of the Sabbeth or Lords Day Where upon your Informer Prays that Due Proses May be Had in the Premises Dated at Windsor this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of—November A Dom 1798

Elijah Mills Jr Grandjuror

To the Sheriff of the County of Hartford or his Deputy or to  
Either of the Constables of the Town of Hartford  
Within Said County Greeting

By Authority of the State of Connecticut you are Hereby—Commanded fourth With to Arrest the Body of the Above Named James Cook if to be found within your Precincts and Him Safely to Keep and Have to Appear Before Me the Subscriber Justice of the Peac<sup>l</sup> Within and for Hartford County at my Dwelling House in Windsor in Said Hartford County then and their to be Made to Answer to the Above Written Complaint and be further Delt with in the Premises as to Law and Justice

### Newgate Prison

The following story takes us a short distance beyond the commonly recognized field of Windsor history, but since it deals with a locality once a part of Old Windsor it is thought fitting to include it in this volume.

Sixteen miles northwest of Hartford, crowning a high ridge upon the western slope of Talcott Mountain, stand the crumbling walls of the once widely famed and greatly dreaded Newgate of Connecticut.

Why was this place so famed and so dreaded?

Because it was a prison and a dungeon of horrors. Within its underground caverns, in the old colonial days, robbers, burglars, counterfeiters and criminals of all types paid the penalty of their misdeeds. Here, too, in the days of the Revolutionary War Tories were sent by the Connecticut Committee of Safety to punish them for opposing the patriots and helping the British. Washington, also, while commander-in-chief of the American army at Cambridge found among his men some "flagrant and atrocious villains" whose conduct proved them

unfit to remain in the army and unsafe to be given their liberty. Accordingly he sent them to Newgate for confinement in its dungeons.

When the war was over Connecticut for more than a third of a century used these same dungeon caverns as her state prison.

How did it happen that Connecticut had such dungeons to use for such purposes?

If we are to answer this question we must first go back to the year 1707. At that time a large number of men who owned farms in that part of the old town of Simsbury which is now the town of East Granby, formed a company to dig for copper which had recently been discovered in the rocks of Talcott Mountain. The spot where they began to dig has ever since been known as Copper Hill. On the summit of this hill they dug two deep wells or shafts. These shafts went down through solid rock. One was thirty-five feet deep and the other nearly eighty. From the bottom of these wells the miners dug and blasted great caverns or chambers extending in all directions.

The broken rock which was taken out of these chambers contained copper. This ore was taken to the shafts and drawn to the surface of the ground by means of windlasses and buckets. The next step was to smelt the ore and thus separate the pure copper from the rock. Though the mine was never very profitable it became famous both in America and Europe, and when the first company of stockholders decided to turn the work over to others there were plenty of men ready to take their places. Many companies were formed one after another to try their fortune in the mine at Copper Hill. These companies were organized in Boston, New York, London, Holland and elsewhere. Skilled miners were brought over from Germany but conditions made it impossible for the owners to make much money out of the mine.

To begin with, the ore was of such a nature that it was very difficult to separate the copper from the rock. In the second place the laws of England forbade the company to smelt the ore in this country. Large quantities of it were

hauled to Hartford and shipped to New York and in turn reshipped to England to be smelted.

One by-product of the mine proved even more famous than the mine itself. This was the production of Granby Coppers. Small coins were very scarce and an ingenious blacksmith, named John Higley, who resided in the town of Granby, began to make copper pennies from the metal obtained at the mine. A few of the coins made by him still exist and are eagerly sought and highly valued by coin collectors. Some of these coins have upon one side figures of sledge hammers with crowns above them to show the loyalty of their maker to the English king. These figures are encircled by a motto which reads: "I am good copper." The reverse side of the coin bears the inscription: "Value me as you please."

When the Revolutionary War broke out the Connecticut patriots needed a prison in which to confine those supporters of the king whose sentiments and influence were harmful to the patriot cause. These people were called Tories. The people thought that the caverns in Copper Hill were just the place to hold the Tories and keep them from doing harm. As rapidly as the patriots discovered Tories who were using their influence to help the king they sent them to these dungeons, which they named Newgate Prison after a celebrated prison of the same name in London, England.

At this underground prison greater efforts were made to subdue the Tories than at any other place in all the thirteen colonies. Those in confinement made desperate efforts to escape. Their friends who were at liberty plotted to aid them. One after another three blockhouses placed over the entrance to the main shaft were destroyed by fire. A guard of twenty-four men armed with muskets and bayonets, and three officers with cutlasses and pistols were needed to maintain order. Even this guard sometimes failed for they were attacked several times by the prisoners, many of whom escaped. Those who did not escape showed their hatred of their keepers in every possible way. Some who had a talent for making rhymes used it to deride the patriots. A couplet from one of their compositions ran:

"Many of them in halters will swing,  
Before John Hancock will ever be king."

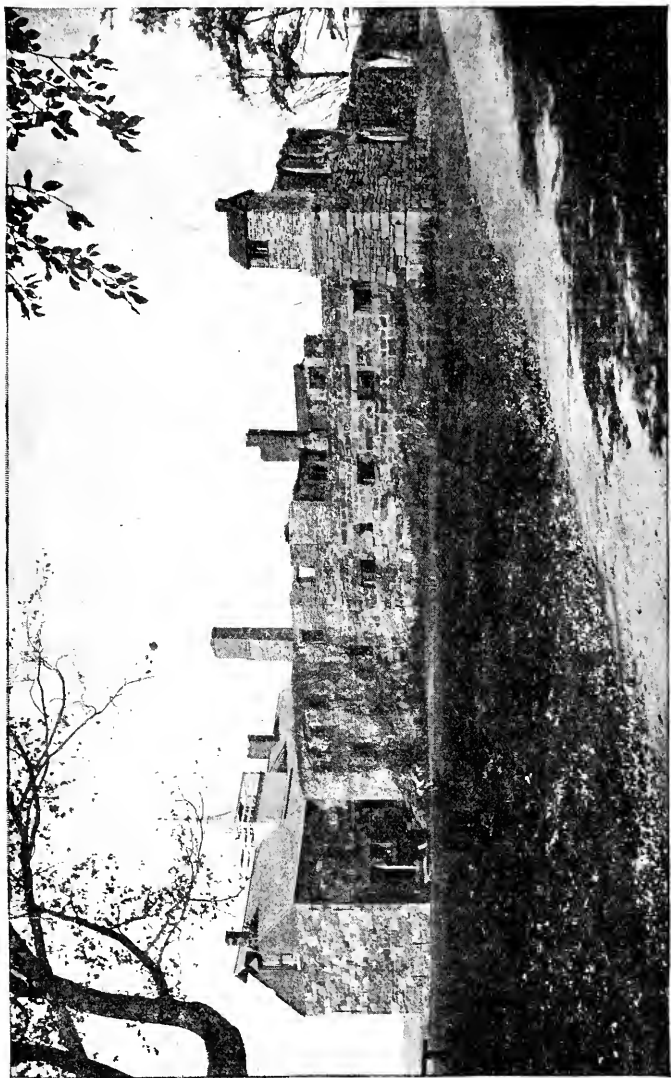
When the Revolutionary War was over there came a change at Newgate, for it was no longer needed as a prison for Tories. In 1790 the state of Connecticut passed an act making it a state prison for the confinement of criminals. Workshops and other necessary buildings were erected near the entrance to the mine. These buildings were surrounded with a wooden palisade mounted with iron spikes. Twelve years later the palisade was torn down and a strong wall of stone twelve feet high was built in its place.

The prisoners helped build this wall and when it was completed they were invited to take part in the celebration that was held in honor of its completion.

At the celebration one prisoner offered as his toast to the wall, "May it be like the walls of Jericho and tumble down at the sound of a ram's horn."

Several buildings of brick and stone were soon erected inside the wall. These contained apartments for cells, a chapel, a hospital, a kitchen, a cooper shop, a shoe shop, a wagon shop, a blacksmith shop, a treadmill and quarters for the officers and guards.

Here for the next quarter of a century Connecticut confined her convicts. Loaded with chains during the day they toiled in the shops above ground or trod the steps of the dread treadmill. At night in their clanking fetters they descended the shafts to the dungeons below and there awaited the return of day. There, young and old, first offenders and lifelong violators of the law, congregated in the darkness to invent mischief, learn vice and plot crime. It is no wonder that they were more likely to become worse criminals than they were to be restored to society reformed and valued citizens. If they neglected their work or their duty or were offensive in their conduct they were flogged like beasts, confined in stocks, loaded with extra chains, or suspended by the heels. Rebellions, insurrections and breaks for liberty were frequent. At one time thirty prisoners in the nail shop, at a signal which had been previously agreed upon, unlocked their fetters with keys that some of them had made from pewter buttons upon their clothes, and without warning furiously attacked their guards. The swords and bullets of the guards



OLD NEWGATE PRISON AT EAST GRANBY

were too much for them. Their leader was killed and the rest soon surrendered.

In spite of the supposed security many prisoners managed to escape, some of them in ways almost incredible. One man actually dug his way to liberty from the cellar of the guard house by tunneling under the prison wall and coming to the surface outside at a point some distance away.

The unsatisfactory condition of the prison and its bad reputation caused much criticism and aroused a strong sentiment against it. The people of Connecticut demanded that the prison should be abandoned and that the state should erect another of a more modern and humane type. Consequently, a prison of this type was built at Wethersfield. In September, 1827, the prisoners were transferred to their new home and the horrors of Newgate became a thing of the past. Abandoned to the weather the walls and workshops have since been slowly crumbling away. Their substantial nature, however, will cause them to last for long years to come. While the dark caverns below will change but little with the passing of the centuries, the ruins will be an object of interest and wonder to thousands of visitors.

Our imagination and our sympathy for those who have suffered there cause us to shudder as we descend the ladder into the gloom, and with torch in hand begin the further descent through long, damp, winding passages into the chambers of horrors, where men once entered, not for a visit of a few brief minutes, but for months and years, and perhaps for life. As our eyes seek to peer into the darkness around us and beyond us, as we speak and then listen to the hoarse and hollow reverberations that come back to our ears from the rocky walls of the caverns, as we think of what those walls would say if they had tongues, as our lungs fill with the dank air of the pit, we wonder how men ever breathed it for years and lived. But as we stand and think of what took place there a hundred years ago, we also feel a sense of gratitude, and a throb of pride and joy that such scenes have passed from Newgate and from Connecticut forever and that they are no longer possible anywhere in our land.

### The Great Meadow Drain

The digging of a "great drain" in a country town in Connecticut was a great event as long ago as the year 1797. In that year James Hooker, Samuel Allen, and others who lived in Windsor informed the Governor that the marshy lowlands north of the Farmington River and between Palisado Avenue and the Connecticut River were unprofitable for farming purposes because of the water that at times overflowed them. These men desired that a great drain or sewer might be dug to drain these marsh lands and make them profitable for cultivation. They asked the Governor to appoint commissioners to undertake the necessary work. Accordingly on May 30, 1797, Governor Oliver Wolcott appointed Jabez Haskel, Daniel Gillet, and Ezra Hayden, Commissioners of Sewers and gave them authority to construct a sewer in order to drain the "Great Meadow," which its owners had named the "wet and drowned land."

The following is the commission from Governor Wolcott:  
 OLIVER WOLCOTT Governor & Commander in Chief in &  
 over the STATE OF CONNECTICUT

To Mess<sup>rs</sup> JABEZ HASKEL, DANIEL GILLET & EZRA  
 HEYDEN all of Windsor in s<sup>d</sup> STATE—GREETING  
 WHEREAS upon the Memorial of James Hooker Samuel  
 Allen and others inhabitants of s<sup>d</sup> town of Windsor showing  
 that there is in s<sup>d</sup> town on the East side of the highway on  
 which they dwell a quantity of marshy low lands which are  
 rendered unprofitable by the overflowing of waters being the  
 whole quantity of land contained in two former Comisions of  
 Sewers and praying that Sewers might be appointed to drain  
 the s<sup>d</sup> land, THE GOVERNOR & COUNCIL on the 23<sup>d</sup> day of  
 May ADom. 1797 did appoint you the s<sup>d</sup> JABEZ HASKEL  
 DANIEL GILLET & EZRA HEYDEN to be commissioners  
 of Sewers to drain the land afores<sup>d</sup>.

I DO THEREFORE pursuant to the s<sup>d</sup> appointment com-  
 missionate you the s<sup>d</sup> EZRA HASKEL DANIEL GILLET &  
 EZRA HEYDEN for that purpose, & to perform whatsoever  
 is necessary & requisite thereto agreeably to the directions  
 of the law entitled "An Act for appointing & directing com-  
 missioners of Sewers and Scavengers" being first sworn to act

therein, & you are to conform yourselves to the provisions of the law to which your office hath relation

GIVEN under my hand and seal in Hartford the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May ADom. 1797

OLIVER WOLCOTT

The sewer, an open ditch, extending along the west side of the "Great Meadow" "under the hill" from the Farmington River to a point some distance north of the Bissell Ferry Road, was soon dug. For the next hundred years this ditch or drain was the object of much care and attention on the part of the proprietors of the "wet and drowned land." The earliest record that has come down to us is dated 1799 and entitled "Concerning our Drean Under the Hill . . . Setting it out." This document names all the proprietors thru whose land the drain extended and gives the number of rods for which each proprietor was responsible. The latest official record is dated just a century later in the year 1899 and records the proceedings of a "Big Drain Meeting held at School House No. 5, Oct. 23, 1899." At this meeting it was voted "that the Big Drain be opened this fall beginning at the Farmington River, and that each proprietor open the drain on his own account." About once in two years during the first twenty years after the digging of the drain the proprietors were legally warned to hold a business meeting for the purpose of electing three "scavengers" whose duty it was to see that the drain was opened or cleaned once a year. In later years these meetings were held less frequently until they ceased altogether in 1899.

The cost of taking care of the drain is seldom mentioned but it was apparently taken care of by a small tax. The records of 1840 show definitely that a tax of one and five-tenths cents on the rod was found necessary to defray the expenses that had to be incurred by the "scavengers." The tax list shows that the total length of the drain was 567 rods and the amount of the tax assigned to the twenty-one proprietors was eight dollars and fifty cents. The drain was crossed by numerous small bridges over which the farmers passed with their teams when cultivating on the "wet and drowned land" that had been made profitable for cultivation by the digging and frequent "opening" of the Big Drain. In



recent years the drain has been somewhat neglected but it still serves to carry off to the Farmington River much of the surplus water that would otherwise render the cultivation of the marsh land difficult and unprofitable. In the dry season the drain now presents the appearance of a small brook running south under the hill along the edge of the Great Meadow. Historically and industrially it tells a story of much significance to the owners of the "wet and drowned land."

### From Daniel Hayden's Account Book

1787. To twelve pound and a half Beef at 3 pence per pound 3 shillings 1½ pence.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

Wages for Ditch Digging.

1787. By Six Days Ditchin at fore Shilling pr. Day 1 pound 4 shillings. (4 Shillings equalled 66 2/3 cents.)

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

1788. To Six Barrels of Cydor at 6 Shillings per Barrel 1 pound and sixteen shillings.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

1793. Mrs. Polly Pilkin of East Hartford received 4 pounds, 16 Shillings, for "Keepin School Six months at Sixteene Shilling p<sup>r</sup> month."

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

In 1794 Miss Polly Pitkin received 3 pounds, 10 Shillings, for "Keepin School 14 weeks at 5 Shillings per weeke by Publick money" and 2 pounds, 10 Shillings for "Keeping School 10 weeks by Privet money.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

When the public money was exhausted money was raised by subscription to continue the school.

In 1795 the Widdo Pitkin received 2 pounds and 6 shillings for boarding and schooling Esther Hayden eight week at 5 shillings, 9 pence, per week.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

February 1800. The charge for "boarding the School-master one week" was 9 Shillings.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

Feb'y 1800. Jesse Thrall received 3 Shillings, 4½ pence, for three feet of wood for the school.

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1801.

The flood was three feet higher than ever was seen by the oldest man in town before.

Tho<sup>s</sup> Hayden

July 1801. "To my hors to hartland 16 m" 5 Shillings.

1801. John Bowers received for making "2 pairs of womans Calf Skin Shoes" 6 Shillings.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

#### An Old Time Tax List.

Thos. Hayden's List for 1802:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| One pole   | 60    |
| 1 Cow  | 7     |
| 1 Year land  | 3.50  |
| 1 hors   | 10.00 |
| 5 acors of plow land                                   | 5.00  |
| 7 D <sup>o</sup> of pastor D <sup>o</sup>              | 9.38  |
| 10 D <sup>o</sup> of bush D <sup>o</sup>               | 3.40  |
| 4 D <sup>o</sup> of 2 <sup>d</sup> Rate D <sup>o</sup> | .68   |
| 3 Smokes 4th rate                                      | 1.80  |

(Pole meant poll tax. A smoke was a fireplace.)

1802. The charge for a yoke of oxen one half day was 1 Shilling. To draw one load of wood, 6 pence.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

1805. The price if "Cillin a hog" was 1 Shilling. For "Cilling a beef," 3 Shillings.

Daniel Hayden's Acct. Book.

**From Samuel Hayden's Acct. Book**

Oct. 1746. For mending a candle stick 6 pence.

Oct. 1756. For a Deer trap 7 pounds, 10 Shillings.

1757

By a thousand of 8 penny nails, 1 pound, 10 Shillings.

March ye 20<sup>th</sup> 1765. Then Rec<sup>d</sup> (reckoned) with Nath<sup>el</sup> Mather and Ballanced all Book accounts from ye Beginning of the world to this Day as witness our hands.

Nathaniel Mather  
Samuel Hayden

**Some Oldtime Bills**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Oct <sup>br</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 1808. The Town of Windsor to Levi Hayden D <sup>r</sup> |         |
| To Preambelating the Line between Hartford & Windsor                                       | \$4 00  |
| Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>   |         |
| To Preambelating the Line between Suffield & Windsor three Days                            | 4 50    |
| Expenche   | 1 22    |
|  | \$9 72  |
| 9 Crows  | 0 54    |
| 19 Blackbirds  | 0 19    |
| Going to Suffield to git their Select Men  |         |
|  | \$10 45 |
| to help run the line   | 00 50   |
|  | \$10 95 |
| Windsor Nov <sup>br</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 1808 Levi Hayden                                |         |

The Town of Windsor to Geo. Belden D<sup>r</sup>

Nov. 1807. To a Coffin for Moses Doe & Handles \$2.50

### A Declaration of Belief

It is the law of the State of Connecticut that a man shall certify his belief concerning the law of his God. I do profess of belief in the free and independent Church of Christ and I will Sacrifice thereunto as I think proper.

Windsor January the first day A. D. 1808.

Isaac Pinney

### Bills That the Town Paid

The Town of Windsor to James Brown—D<sup>r</sup>  
to Making List Bill for 1807 for the half Mile so call<sup>d</sup> amount-  
ing to \$3124.67—.25—\$0.78

James Brown

The Town of Windsor to John M. Niles D<sup>r</sup>  
To making out the grand List for Poquonock Parish for 1809  
Amount thereof 12604 Dollars and 57 Cents at .25 cts per 1000  
Dollars \$3,15

—  
100

John M. Niles Lister

The Town of Windsor to John Hinxon D<sup>r</sup>  
To boarding Oliver Glazier 6 Days from Ap<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> to Ap<sup>l</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>  
1809 at 67 p<sup>r</sup> Week—\$0.57

—  
100

John Hinkson

### Windsor's Post Offices

As far back as 1753 Benjamin Franklin had been appointed Deputy Postmaster General of the English Colonies and on July 26, 1775, the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution creating its own Continentan Postal System with Franklin as the First Postmaster General of the United Colonies.

Franklin had already (in 1760) established that swift stage-coach service which amazed the country by carrying mail from Philadelphia to Boston thru Windsor in six days, averaging more than fifty miles a day. It was the system begun by Franklin that Washington adopted and perfected during his first administration as President.

Strange as it may seem, Windsor had no post-office during the lifetime of Washington. When Washington was President the great mail route of the East ran from Brewers in the Northeast corner of Maine to St. Mary's in the Southeast corner of Georgia. On this route there were one hundred post-offices and the schedule time from Brewers to St. Mary's was six weeks and three days. There was a post-office at Suffield and one at Hartford. Oliver Ellsworth was then United States Senator from Connecticut and his letters to his wife at home were addressed to the Hartford Post-office, where Mrs. Ellsworth arranged to have them given to the stage driver who carried them in his hat to the store then kept by Major William Howard, in the present home of the Windsor Historical Society. When a letter was expected Mrs. Ellsworth sent her hired man daily to Mr. Howard's store in order to receive it promptly.

In 1802 the Honorable Gideon Granger, of Suffield, was Postmaster General, and when on one of his trips from Washington to Suffield, he noticed the stage driver taking letters from his hat and leaving them in the care of Mr. Howard, he remarked: "You ought to have a post-office here," and on his return to Washington he sent Mr. Howard a commission as the first Postmaster in Windsor.

For many years his post-office was the small room in the Northwest corner of the Fyler House, a room which in later years was used as a china closet.

After one generation had walked from Windsor Center to the north side of the Farmington River to receive their daily mail a petition was circulated to have the post-office removed to Broad Street. This petition was for a time opposed by those living on the North side of the river on the ground that the records of the post-office showed that four men living between the Palisado Green and Hayden Station received more mail than all the patrons of the post-office living south of the river. These four men appear to have received about a dozen letters a week and their newspapers. Letters when received at the post-office were marked by the postmaster to show the amount of postage due. The postage was paid by the receiver when the letter reached its destination. For a short distance the amount was six cents. Other rates were ten, twelve and

one-half and eighteen and three-quarters cents, according to distance. The rate to Charleston, S. C., was twenty-five cents.

Under a law of Connecticut which had been passed in 1787 Postmaster General Granger ordered milestones set up on all post roads in the State. These were red sandstone slabs about three feet high and marked with the number of miles from Hartford and the letter H. A line of stones ran through Windsor to Hayden Station, then Northwest to Pink Street, continuing to Gun's Turn, the Half Way House, and across the plains to Suffield. This is the road traveled by George Washington on his journey from Hartford to Boston in 1789, before the stones were erected.

The milestone at Hayden Station carried a more elaborate inscription than any other in Windsor. This one read:

"10 MILES TO  
HARTFORD C. H.  
120 MILES TO BOSTON,  
130 MILES TO NEW YORK."

The letters C. H. signified Hartford Courthouse, the name by which the Old State House was then known. Only five of the original stones are now standing in Windsor. One of these is near the home of the late Judge D. Ellsworth Phelps, four miles from Hartford. The next is a short distance north of the residence of John B. Stewart on Windsor Avenue; another is at Windsor Center on Broad Street opposite Capen Street and is marked six miles from Hartford. The next is in front of the Fenton House opposite the First Congregational Church, seven miles from Hartford. The fifth and last stone is on the old Northampton highway running from Hayden Station through Poquonock and stands on the west side of the highway near the boundary line between Windsor and Windsor Locks and is marked to show that it was twelve miles from Hartford. One other stone may be seen on the West side of the highway nine miles from Hartford nearly opposite the home formerly occupied by Mr. Joseph B. Spencer. But this is not the original stone. It was erected about thirty-five years ago by Mr. Spencer to take the place of an original stone which stood on the East side of the road and had been broken down.

About a quarter of a century after the establishment of the first post-office in the Fyler House a post-office was established at Poquonock, as the present Elm Grove was then called. The earliest record of this office is contained in a letter written on September 30th, 1827, by David Marshall to a former neighbor, who had moved to New York. He wrote: "Furthermore we have a post-office granted us in this place of which Cicero Phelps is appointed Postmaster." Cicero Phelps was the proprietor of the hotel and tavern which was later cut into two buildings, one of which, the front and main part of the hotel, was moved away, while the other, the rear part, consisting of a two-story ell with a ballroom upstairs, was left on the original site and converted into the present Elm Grove schoolhouse.

In this tavern Cicero Phelps conducted the affairs of the new post-office. Even at that early date the office of postmaster was a cause for political preference and rivalry. We find Elihu Marshall, a near neighbor to the post-office, complaining that "the letters and papers of sd. office are kept by said Phelps promiscuously in an unlocked desk in the public dining room in his tavern house" and that on one occasion he (Mr. Marshall) "saw several men playing at cards together in said room, where they might have had free access to any and all papers and letters in said office."

In 1841 a request to the Postmaster General for another post-office at Rainbow brought earnest protests from the residents of Eel Harbour (now Poquonock).

These remonstrants stated that two manufacturing villages had grown up since the post-office was first established, one near the Poquonock Bridge and the other at Rainbow, and that a second post-office at Rainbow would cause unnecessary expense and result in great annoyance to the people living near the bridge, since some of their mail would go to the old office and some would go to Rainbow.

They offered as their solution of the problem what they considered a fair compromise—the closing of the old office and the opening of a new office near the bridge half way between Poquonock (Elm Grove) and Rainbow—and they recommended as a candidate for the new position "Samuel O. Hollister, Esq., who resides adjacent and near said Poquonock Bridge . . . in

every respect a fit and proper person, competent and qualified for the performance of sd duties."

Finally the post-office was removed to Poquonock Center and still remains there. A second post-office was opened at Rainbow at a later period. Its location after the opening of the present century was near the schoolhouse on the opposite side of the street. For several years it was housed in an annex to the house standing next south of the home of the late George W. Hodge and Mrs. Hodge his wife was the Postmistress. Mrs. Hodge was succeeded in office by Mrs. Octavia Royce and the office was moved to a low brick structure on the estate of Mr. Hodge. The next and last Postmistress was Mrs. Alice E. Bassett, whose commission was dated April 21, 1904. She held office until 1916, when the office was discontinued and Rural Free Delivery service from the East Granby post-office was provided for that part of Rainbow north of the closed office. Many business men found it advantageous to receive their mail through the Poquonock office and made Poquonock their business address. The last home of the Rainbow office was destroyed by fire a year or two after it was closed.

At the south end of the town the community at Wilson remained without a local post-office until near the close of the nineteenth century. Some whose business took them to Hartford daily or several times a week had boxes in the city post-office. Others obtained their mail through the post-office at Windsor Center.

In 1894 or 1895 a store was opened in a new brick building at number 230 Windsor Avenue and a movement was set on foot to have the local mail distributed from this store. As a result Mrs. Lois Wilson Wetmore was appointed Postmistress and by 1897 a new post-office was installed in the brick store. Mrs. Wetmore was succeeded in office by Miss Bertha White, who in turn was followed by Miss Elizabeth E. Kitchen. Miss Kitchen served many years. The next in office was Frank L. Whitney, who served until his death. After Mr. Whitney, Leslie J. Masten became Postmaster and served until March 31, 1931, when the office was discontinued and the Wilson mail service was handled from Hartford.



During the years of its existence the Wilson post-office occupied four different homes. The first was the brick store already mentioned. The second was at number 248 Windsor Avenue. The next removal was to number 78 Wilson Avenue. The last quarters were in a small building at Charlevoix Place near Wilson Avenue. When the mail service was taken over by the Hartford office a sub-station was established in the store of the Wilson Drug Company on the southwest corner of Windsor Avenue and Barber Street.

The post-office at Windsor Center, which was moved from the Fyler House to Broad Street, has occupied several locations. At the beginning of the present century it was housed in the brick building now occupied by the Windsor Drug Store and Charles T. Welch was Postmaster. He was succeeded by John G. St. Ruth during whose term of service the office was moved in 1924 to the Casino attached to the Windsor Hotel. Earl Rogers was the next Postmaster and the office remained in the Casino during his term and for a while after his successor, Albert E. Lennox, had entered upon his duties. Early in 1935 the office was moved under Mr. Lennox to new quarters in the Plaza Building west of the Windsor Green.

### A Selectmen's Bill for Service

The Town of Windsor to Timothy Phelps Debt AD 1807  
& 8

|  | \$   | Cts         |
|--|------|-------------|
| Nov 23 <sup>d</sup> One day to Meet the Select Men at John Sills                   | 1,00 |             |
| Dec <sup>m</sup> 14 D <sup>o</sup> at Samuel Roberts                               | 1,00 |             |
| Dec <sup>m</sup> 21 To Rainbo half a day   |      | ,50         |
| Dec <sup>m</sup> 24 To Rainbo to lay out a Road one day Expenses                   | 1,12 |             |
| 1808 Jan <sup>u</sup> 4 1 D <sup>o</sup> to Elishu Allyn also 1/2 a quire of paper | 1,12 |             |
| Twenty other dates are omitted totaling  |      | 20,24       |
|  |      | <hr/> 24,86 |
| Twelve Days Deducted According to Custom*  |      | 12,00       |
|  |      | <hr/> 12:86 |

Test Timothy Phelps

\*It was the custom to give the town twelve days' service without charge.

The only change in the following records is the substitution of Roe, Doe, or Blank for the actual names.

Town of Windsor in Acct with Abiel Griswold Dr.

Sep. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1808 To one cambrick Hankershief @ 0: 2 - 0

for to use for Banajah Blank to be Laid out in Windsor Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1808

the Town of Windsor to Calven Wilson Dr

to Shaving Laying out & Diging Grace, for Benajah Blank one Dollar Seventy five cents

Calven Wilson

The Town of Windsor to Tim<sup>o</sup> Phelps Debt<sup>r</sup>

for Paying for Nine Crows & forty three Blackbirds L 0.97

Tim<sup>o</sup> Phelps Selectman

### School Bills

Windsor September 3d A.D. 1822

The Subscribers to the Support of the Union School to Elish N. Sill Dr for Six Weeks Board Sumner G. Clapp while Instructing Windsor Academy.

at two Dollars pr week

\$12

Received payment

Elisha N. Sill

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 24th 1824 in settlement with Trustees

Received of William S. Pierson One hundred dollars in full of the wages due me for keeping the Union School Twenty five weeks ending Sept<sup>r</sup> AD. 1824

H. A. Rowland Jr.

Windsor August 13th 1823

Received of Colonel R. T. Mather, for Oliver Hyde's tuition, four dollars and twenty Cents

Hiram Chamberlin

Windsor, August 12th 1823

Received of John Pinney, for his wood bill, fifty cents

Hiram Chamberlin

Windsor Nov 14 1823

Rec<sup>d</sup> from William Howard fourteen dollars for and on a/c of Collections for Union School.

Allyn M. Mather

### Supporting Education

At a meeting of the Subscribers for the support of the Union School at the conference house in the first society in Windsor on the 28th day of January, 1823.

John Sargeant was chosen Chairman and the following persons was admitted by vote to become members of the Company for the support of said School—they having subscribed for this purpose—Edward Selden, Job Drake, William Howard, David Filley, Issac Hayden, Jasper Morgan.

Whereas the first School Society in Windsor at their Meeting in October A. D. 1820—granted to certain Individuals of said Society the interest of the fund appropriated for the support of the Union School in said Society on conditions of their supporting a school according to the conditions of said grant—and whereas, on the first day of January A.D. 1821—Certain persons became bound to the Treasurer of the Society to support a school according to the terms of said Grant—and whereas the said Society at this meeting in October A.D. 1822 did vote that said persons who had become bound as aforesaid should have liberty to admit others to subscribe for the support of said School and who should enjoy the same privileges and become liable to all the penalties of original subscription. Now therefore we the subscribers do hereby agree and become bound to pay our proportion of all the expenses of said School, which shall hereafter accrue to be calculated in proportion to the sums annex'd to our several names the same as if the present subscription had been annex'd to the original subscription to support said School.

Windsor January 28th 1823

Edward Selden—One Dollar

Job Drake—Five Dollars

William Howard—One Dollar

David Filley—One Dollar

Issac Hayden Jr.—Three Dollars

Jasper Morgan—Three Dollars

### School Expenses

We have agreed to employ Mr. Elijah Paine Jun<sup>r</sup> as a School Instructor at the rate of \$28 per month (four weeks for a month). Should his loss of time not exceed six days during the term of nine months school keeping we will make no account against Mr. Paine for lost time. The school to commence on Monday the 22nd day of September A.D. 1823. Mr. Henry Halsey

To Trustees of Union School Dr.

To 5 weeks tuition of your Daughter Ellen & 5 weeks tuition of Laura Mather in all 10 weeks between 3 March & 10 July 1823 @ 20 & 27 cts \$2.35. (The schedule for tuition was: English, Reading, and Writing, 20 cents per week; Grammar, Geography, and Arithmetic, 27 cents; Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, 34 cents.)

Received of Elisha N. Sill thirty Seven Dollars & fifty Cents in full for my Services for Instructing the Academy School Six Weeks Sept<sup>r</sup> 3d 1822.

Sumner G. Clapp

The Trustees of the Union School agree to pay Henry A. Rowland Jr. from the fund in cash \$100 and give him whatever tuitions may accrue according to the agreement or vote of the Society, for keeping the sd Union School the term of Six months and one week or 25 weeks, being the time for which sd Trustees or Subscribers are obligated to keep sd School to fulfil their contract with sd Society. The sd Henry Rowland agrees to keep the school according to the above contract. March 29th 1824

Elisha N. Sill  
Allyn M. Mathers  
Jasper Morgan  
William S. Pierson  
Henry A. Rowland, Jun<sup>r</sup>

Windsor September 3 A.D. 1822

The Subscribers to the Support of the Union School to Elisha N. Sill Sr. for Six weeks Boarding Sumner by Clapp while Instructing Windsor Academy.

at two Dollars pr week

\$12

Received payment Feb. 26, 1826 in settlement with Trustees,  
1835 Elihu Marshall to Eli Phelps Dr.

For keeping three sheep fifteen weeks \$1.70  
—Original Bill

Windsor, Dec., 1836

Elihu Marshall to Phinehas Griffin Dr.

To Hauling 1 Cord 2 ft. Wood from Suffield Plains to  
Middle District School House \$0.50

Recd. Payment Phinehas Griffin  
—Original Bill

Elihu Marshall to Milton Holcomb Dr.

To 16 weeks school Teaching \$72.00  
Windsor March 18th 1837 Recd. payt.

Milton Holcomb  
—Original Bill

Elihu Marshall to Ethan Holcomb Dr.

1837 March 4th. To Sawing 5 Cords Wood at School House  
@ 28c \$1.40

Recd. payt. Ethan Holcomb  
—Original Bill

### A Physician's Bill

Poquonock Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1845

Adin Hunt Dr

To Doct Henry Church

|  |      |
|--|------|
| 1844 August 15 <sup>th</sup> To Coat                       | 1.50 |
| 1844 Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> To Medical Attendance One visit | .37½ |
| 1844 Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> To one visit                    | .37½ |
| 1845 July 12 <sup>th</sup> To one d°                       | .37½ |
| 1845 July 13 <sup>th</sup> To one d°                       | .37½ |
| 1845 July 26 <sup>th</sup> To one d°                       | .37½ |
| 1845 July 27 <sup>th</sup> To one d°                       | .37½ |
| 1845 July 28 <sup>th</sup> To one d°                       | .37½ |

\$4.12½

Received Pay<sup>mt</sup> Henry Church

### The Locks Canal

During the first forty years following the close of the Revolutionary War extensive commerce was carried on between Windsor, Hartford, and places south of Hartford and Springfield and places farther north. Sloops took their cargoes as far north on the Connecticut River as Warehouse Point. There the cargoes were either transported around the Enfield Falls by land and again loaded on river craft for their transportation up the river, or they were loaded on light draft scow boats which could be poled upstream and made to scale the falls. After 1820 the Hartford bridge proved such a hindrance to up-river navigation from points south of Hartford that few sailing vessels attempted to go above the bridge but scows and light draft craft still plied between Hartford and Warehouse Point and had landings in Windsor on both sides of the river.

In 1822 the state legislature chartered a company to build a canal from New Haven thru Farmington to Northampton, Massachusetts. This gave New Haven an advantage over Hartford in the way of trade with the upper Connecticut valley and Canada. Hartford determined to be in a position to meet this competition and the Connecticut River Company was formed and obtained a charter to build a canal in the towns of Windsor and Suffield, which should enable canal boats and light draft craft to go around the Enfield Falls. It was expected to make navigation practicable to the head waters of the Connecticut river and to Lake Memphremagog.

The charter was obtained in 1824 and the canal was completed and opened for traffic in 1829.

Until 1845 this canal served the purposes of navigation for which it was intended, but in that year the railroad, which paralleled the river, was opened and the river traffic was doomed.

For many years a small steamer ran daily between Hartford and Springfield. On this steamer Charles Dickens was a passenger during his American tour in 1842, and some conception of its impressive character may be inferred from the rating that Dickens gives it in his American Notes, where he speaks of it as a boat of "two pony-power."

The canal is still used occasionally for navigation and must be maintained in a condition to permit the passage of boats, since this is a requirement of the charter under which it operates. Its main use, however, is to furnish water power to the many mills that have been built upon its banks. In the early days the village that grew up along the street that paralleled the canal was known as the Locks and in 1854 this part of Ancient Windsor became the separate town of Windsor Locks.

For many years the village of Windsor Locks was connected with the village of Warehouse Point by a ferry which was discontinued when the two villages were connected by a bridge.

### **The Town Deposit Fund**

When we read the list of town officials who are mentioned in our town reports, we find that one of these officials is called the agent of the Town Deposit Fund. If we next turn to the annual report of the Board of Education we find that the school department receives money from the income of the Deposit Fund, which is used to help pay the cost of Education. Where did this fund come from and how do we happen to have it?

To answer these questions we must go back in our history to the year 1836. The Revolutionary War had cost a great deal of money and created a debt of about Seventy-five Million Dollars. In 1790 the United States government made plans to pay this debt. To do this the government used some of the money raised by taxes each year. Before our government could pay a quarter of the debt we had another war with Great Britain and the debt was increased to One Hundred Twenty-seven Million Dollars. After the second war we began in earnest to pay off this huge sum. Year by year the debt decreased until the year 1836 when Congress found that money was piling up in the United States treasury faster than it was needed. The national debt had been paid in full with the exception of a few bonds, which had evidently been lost by their owners. What was to be done? Who had ever heard of a government without a debt? Congress had no precedent to

go by in this case. There was a "surplus" of more than Forty Million Dollars in the treasury.

In order to dispose of this "surplus revenue," Congress passed a law, June 23, 1836, directing that all the monies that should be in the treasury on the first day of January, 1837, except a reserve of Five Million Dollars should be "deposited" with the several states in proportion to their respective representation in the Senate and House of Representatives. The amount thus voted was \$37,468,859.97. This amount was to be paid to the states in four quarterly instalments, on the first days of January, April, July, and October, 1837. Three instalments were paid. Then came the financial panic of 1837. This caused Congress to enact a law on October 2, 1837, to the effect that the payment of the fourth instalment should be postponed until January 1, 1839. This instalment has never been paid.

Connecticut then had two Senators and six Representatives and all the states together had fifty-two Senators and two hundred forty-two Representatives. Therefore, Connecticut's share of the deposit was eight two hundred ninety-fourths of the whole amount, or a little over \$1,000,000.

As only three instalments were paid the amount actually received by Connecticut was \$764,670.60.

The act of Congress under which this deposit with the states was made provided that the money might at any time be recalled into the national treasury, but it was generally understood that there was no expectation or intention that this would ever be done. While nominally and technically a deposit it was really intended to be a gift to the states.

The legislature of Connecticut at a special session held in December, 1836, passed an act accepting the proposed deposit and disposing of it as follows: The money which shall be received from the United States shall be deposited with the several towns in this state in proportion to their respective population as ascertained by the last census (1830) and shall be repaid to the state treasury whenever payment thereof shall be required by act of the general assembly or by proclamation of the person administering the office of governor, for the purpose of being paid into the treasury of the United



States. New towns formed after the passage of this act were to receive their proportion of the fund that was held by the towns from which they were taken.

The following conditions applied to the towns.

1. The towns were to keep and preserve the money as a deposit held in trust for the state.

2. The income from the fund should be used each year, at least one-half for schools and the remainder (if any) for the ordinary expenses of the town.

3. The town must make good any loss occurring in the management of the fund.

4. The town must repay the whole or any part of the fund to the state whenever it should be called for.

In 1855 the general assembly changed the law so that all the income must be used for schools. This is still the law.

The amount of money deposited by the state with the towns was \$763,661.83. Winsor's share, which was reported to a town meeting held on October 2, 1837, was \$5,231.71. This money was lent to sixteen persons on notes secured by mortgages. The first note for \$500.00 had been secured at the beginning of the year and was signed by Alfred Bliss, February 17, 1837.

The amount of the fund remained unchanged for seventeen years and the interest was paid each year directly to the school societies for the support of schools.

The first instalment of interest was distributed as follows:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| To Henry Sill, Treasurer of the First School Society,                         | \$77.61  |
| To Eli Phelps, Treasurer of the Second School Society,                        | 39.38    |
| To Apollos G. Hillyer, Agent for the Half Mile (East Granby) School District, | 7.38     |
|   | <hr/>    |
| Total   | \$124.37 |

The income was distributed to the different schools in proportion to the number of pupils reported in attendance.

In 1854 Windsor Locks became a separate town and received \$1900.00 as its share of the deposit.

When East Granby was incorporated in 1858 Windsor Locks divided its share with that town. Windsor's share

today should be \$3331.71. The town appoints an agent to administer this fund (by custom the Town Treasurer is the agent) and in theory he turns over the interest to the Town Treasurer for the support of schools. In practice some of the interest has been allowed to remain with the fund which now (1935) stands on the towns books as \$5,256.24.

#### A Janitor's Bill

Second Society Windsor to Eli Phelps Dr.  
For Sweeping Meeting House two years from Oct. 1836  
to October 1838 2.50

#### A Teacher's Bill

Middle District Second Society, Windsor,  
To Elizabeth A. Hoskins, Dr.  
1847 To 22 Weeks School Teaching @ 10 shillings  
6 pence pr week \$38.50  
Recd. payment Rockwell Hoskins  
Bloomfield Nov. 16th, 1847

#### When Four Months Made a School Year

The undersigned Committee of the Sixth School District in the first School Society of Windsor do certify that the School in said District has been kept by teachers duly examined and approved, for at least four months during the current year, and visited twice during each season of schooling by the visitors of the School Society, and the public money received by the district for the said year has been faithfully applied and expended in paying for the services of said teachers and for no other purpose whatever.

Dated at Windsor the 25th day of September A. D. 1849.

L. M. Smith, District Committee.

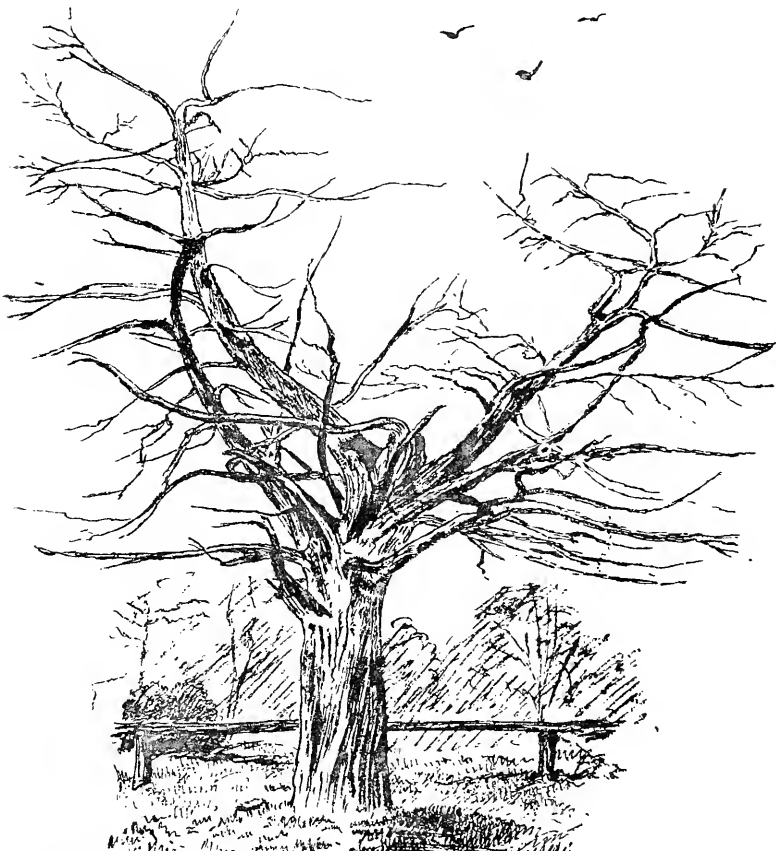
#### Entertaining Visiting Ministers

First Ecclesiastical Society, Windsor, Dr.  
To J. B. Woodford.  
1859  
Oct. 24th. To 1 Meal and Fire, .25  
Nov. 20th. To 3 Meals and warm Room, .35

1860

|           |  |        |
|-----------|--|--------|
| April 23. | To Board of Rev. E. E. Hall,<br>5 Meals, 2 Lodgings, | \$1.10 |
| May 21st. | To Board of Mr. Wm. A. Hallock,<br>3 M, 1 Lodging,   | .57    |
| July 6.   | To Ferriage going (for a Minister),                  | .12    |

An Old Landmark



Old Cedar. near Ellsmick House  
 Aug. 1868

## THE OLD HUNTING TREE

This ancient cedar, known as the "Old Hunting Tree," stood in the north front yard of the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead, Windsor, Connecticut, about half way between the house and highway. It was locally reputed to be the oldest tree in Connecticut and was known by the Indians as their Council Tree from time immemorial. After the whites came, respect for Indian tradition inspired its continued use as a gathering placè for the more important conferences of the white settlers and Indians. In later years its more familiar name was acquired from its use as an assembly point for hunting parties. A pair of deer antlers were fixed high up in its branches until a few years before the tree fell, November, 1877.

*One of 350 numbered fac similes made exclusively for members of the Windsor Historical Society of Windsor, Connecticut, of a scarce print presented to the Society by RUTH ALDEN CURTIS.*

*Item One of Society's Publications. Christmas, 1921.*

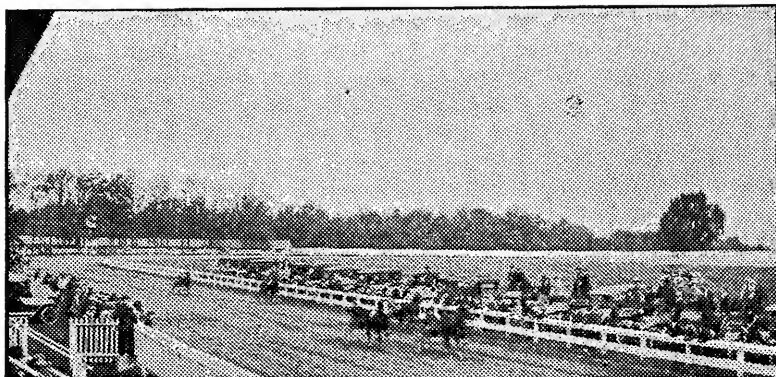
The above is reproduced from a leaflet published by the Windsor Historical Society.

## Sage Park

In the days between the close of the Civil War and the year 1890 horse racing on Palisado Avenue became an attractive sport for Windsor's owners of fine horses. But the sport was less attractive for the general public, who sometimes wanted to use the Avenue while the races were in progress, and as for the residents along this smooth and level highway south of the Bissell Ferry road, they, too, found it difficult to give the practice their unqualified endorsement. What was to be done?

Yankee ingenuity came forward promptly with a plan. A few ardent lovers of the sport led by Elliot H. Andrus, Fred W. Morgan, Horace H. Ellsworth, Edson A. Welch, and William H. Filley, resolved to find a place where horse-racing would not encounter the obstacles it had met on Palisado Avenue, secure land on which to build a race track, and form an association to manage track meets, conduct agricultural fairs, and the like.

On December 5th, 1892, those interested held their first formal meeting and voted to form a Joint Stock Company to promote their object. At this meeting it was reported that Mr. Orson B. Moore had offered to give a tract of land for a



RACING AT SAGE PARK

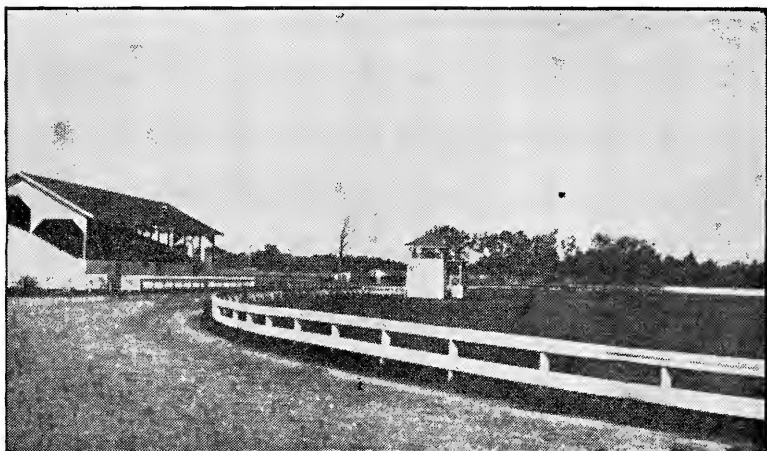
park where fairs and races could be held. This tract was on the hill southwest of Windsor Center and south of Capen Street. The gift was accepted at a later meeting, a stock company with a capital of \$3000 was formed, directors were chosen, and the Moore's Park project was launched.

At the first meeting of the directors held January 9, 1893, Horace H. Ellsworth was elected President, Fred W. Morgan, First Vice-President; Elliot H. Andrus, Second Vice-President; Edson A. Welch, Secretary, and William H. Filley, Treasurer.

A half-mile track was laid out, which proved to be one of the finest and fastest in the country. The grounds were fenced and equipped for races and fairs, and a fine pavilion seating about 2500 was built.

Financially the venture proved disappointing and after a few years Mrs. Louise H. Sage, a lover and owner of fine horses, came to the rescue and took over the ownership and management of the property, which was renamed Sage Park.

On April 18, 1913, Mrs. Sage leased the Park to the Sage Park Club under whose management it was run for a time. After the death of Mrs. Sage her sons, Jerome E. Sage and George W. Sage, sold it to Fred H. Thrall, March 3, 1919. Mr. Thrall on March 4, 1919, conveyed the title to the Park to the Sage Park Company, of which he was made President, a position that he still holds.



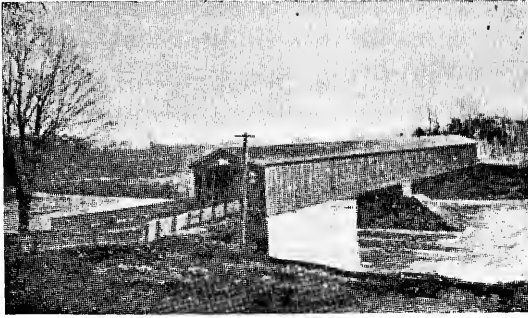
SAGE PARK PAVILION AND TRACK

Sage Park extended its fame throughout the United States. Horses were entered in its races from west of the Rocky Mountains. Some of the fastest horses in the country made their records here.

In recent years automobile racing has at times brought vast throngs to Windsor. At the present time financial and other reasons have caused a lull in the Park's activities.

### Oil City

Many people have wondered how Oil City on the Farmington west of Rainbow received its name. No oil is apparent in that vicinity, but, so the story goes, many years before the place became famous as the early home of the Farmington River Power Company it was noticed that the rocks near the river were covered with what appeared to be oil—perhaps it was oil. At any rate a promoter from Pennsylvania was soon active in convincing the people that there was no mistake about it. He sank a shaft in the rock, poured in a few barrels of good oil from Pennsylvania and then invited prospective investors to see what his pump could do. When they saw him pump real oil from the ground, of course, they invested in his project. Their investment yielded large dividends in experience, but the city did not grow and only its name survived.



### THE COVERED BRIDGE

This bridge across the Farmington River on Palisado Avenue was built in 1854 to replace another built in 1833, which had recently been carried away by a flood. The bridge of 1854 stood until 1916, when it was demolished and replaced by the present steel structure.

### The Little Red Schoolhouse

This poem was written in 1927 by Marguerite Bruyn Laughlin a graduate of the Windsor High School whose early school days had been passed in the Pigeon Hill Schoolhouse.

It brings a mist to many eyes,  
 And hearts will skip a beat,  
 That the little old red schoolhouse  
 Where the dusty cross-roads meet,  
 No longer nestles sturdily  
 Beneath the tall old trees;  
 Nor hears within, the drowsy hum  
 Of 'Rithmetic and A B C's.

No longer in the noonday shade  
 Is heard the school-boy's lore,  
 No more do eager "kids" bang wide  
 The out-flung old white door,  
 And troop forth in the sunshine  
 And discuss the "marks" they get;  
 Or risks they took in passing notes,  
 Or call some "Teacher's pet!"

Oh, don't you all remember  
 At recess time the fun  
 In playing Farmer in the Dell  
 Out in the spring-time sun?  
 And once we had some see-saws,  
 And how with wrath we'd burn  
 If some two kept it longest  
 And ignored the cries, "My turn!"

Some days we'd play Black Spider  
 And be a cake or pie  
 And when Black Spider guessed us  
 We'd yell and how we'd fly!  
 But only girls and tiny boys  
 Were they who played this game,  
 The older boys scorned sissy-play,  
 And boosted baseball's fame

Behind the small brick schoolhouse.  
 Or played leap-frog and tag.  
 But when the school bell jangled  
 They would loiter 'round and lag,  
 In two long straggling lines they'd form  
 "Girls, pass" — "Boys, pass," came next.  
 Soon flushed, rebellious faces  
 Were bent above the text.

No specializing was there then  
 Amongst the mobs and masses,  
 Poor teacher then taught seven grades  
 From biggest ones to baby classes.  
 In winter time the old iron stove  
 With heat waves was a-quiver,  
 The pupils near it were too warm,  
 Those farthest off would shiver.

"Days of real sport" were those days  
 When we would never fail  
 To want a drink out in the hall,  
 And dipped it from an ice-skimmed pail.  
 Do you remember Christmas time  
 The plays and recitations,  
 The way we'd sing and then recite  
 And keep in mind a week's vacation?

And multifold and very weird  
 The presents Teacher got,  
 From hat pins down to crocheted mats,  
 She scarce could hold the lot.  
 We never sang or "spoke our piece"  
 More fervently or clearer  
 Than at the Closing Day of school,  
 Vacation hovered nearer.



Then fruit jars filled with daisies  
Flanked the platform up in front,  
And little girls in starchy dress  
Went thru their vocal stunt.  
And sheepish, grinning, bashful boys  
Sang too—The last of school!  
Already they were visioning  
Baseball and swimming pool.

Once out of sight and down the road,  
Away from warning eye  
Each year the echoes they'd awake  
With school-day's old derisive cry:  
"No more school, no more books,  
No more Teacher's sassy looks!"

But the little old red schoolhouse  
Unsafe, and full of chinks,  
Stands no longer near the crossroads;  
Fickle Fate, the sly old minx,  
Has decreed the red school's passing.  
No time has the busy town  
To consider past-day merits,  
So the schoolhouse is torn down.

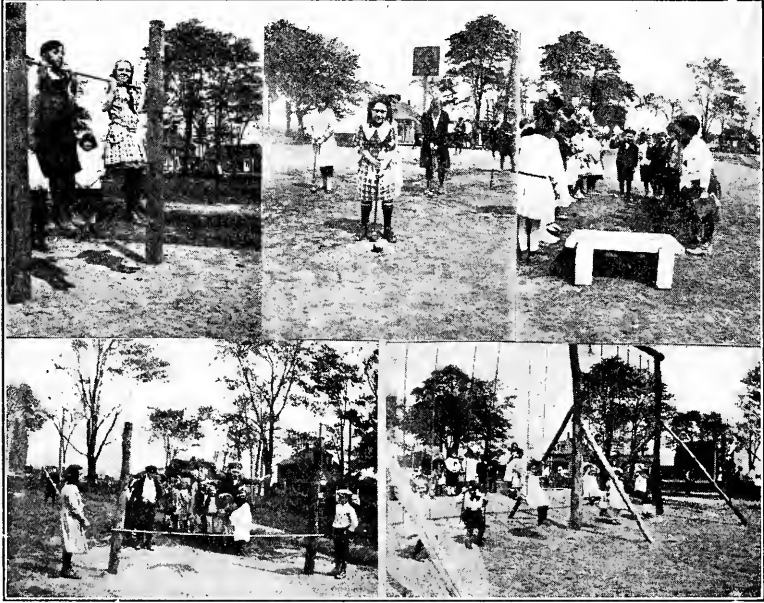
Busy Commerce bought the ground there,  
Filled with business-like elation,  
Thought the cross-roads just the right place  
To erect a filling station.  
Once the meadows wafted fragrance  
To the ling'ring passer-by,  
Hearing shouts of noisy school boys,  
But the past must fade and die.

Now the only odor wafted  
Now the only sound or scene  
Is the hum of throbbing motors  
And the smell of gasoline.

Marguerite Bruyn Laughlin, June, 1927.

### Physical Education

Specially coached athletics became a part of the high school program soon after the completion of the John Fitch High School in 1922. The gradual introduction of playground apparatus for the graded schools followed and supervised sports and games became a part of the regular school program. Scenes like the following were soon common.



THE PLAYGROUND OF THE ROGER WOLCOTT SCHOOL



ON THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELD

### The Windsor Trust Company

The subject of a bank in Windsor attracted little attention before 1911. On May 23 of that year as the result of a short intensive campaign by a few earnest advocates of home banking facilities, a charter was obtained. In 1913 the bank was organized and it opened its doors for business in February, 1914, in the brick building at the point where Broad Street turns into Poquonock Avenue. Here the business was carried on and grew until new quarters were found desirable and land was bought for the erection of a building to be used for bank purposes only. The business was moved to this attractive and well equipped brick structure on the west side of Broad Street between Maple Avenue and Elm Street on September 15, 1929. Here it has carried on successfully in the midst of financial changes and disturbances that have shaken the foundations of almost countless other banking institutions.

Its financial standing is shown by the following statement made at the close of last year (1934).

#### STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1934

##### Resources:

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Cash on hand and in Banks           | \$ 418,359.50  |
| United States Bonds                 | 113,398.24     |
| Other Bonds and Stocks              | 3,015.00       |
| Town Notes                          | 61,000.00      |
| Loans on Collateral                 | 267,122.59     |
| Discounts and Demand Loans          | 132,753.49     |
| Real Estate Mortgages               | 403,640.00     |
| Overdrafts                          | 16.25          |
| Banking House and Other Real Estate | 104,366.26     |
| Letter of Credit                    | 400.00         |
|                                     | <hr/>          |
|                                     | \$1,504,071.33 |

## Liabilities:

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Capital Stock                         | \$ 100,000.00  |
| Surplus and Undivided Profits         | 117,642.07     |
| Reserved for Taxes and Interest       | 10,764.20      |
| Due to Banks                          | 6,937.27       |
| Reserved for January 1, 1935 Dividend | 5,000.00       |
| Deposits (Saving and Commercial)      | 1,263,327.79   |
| Letter of Credit                      | 400.00         |
|                                       | \$1,504,071.33 |

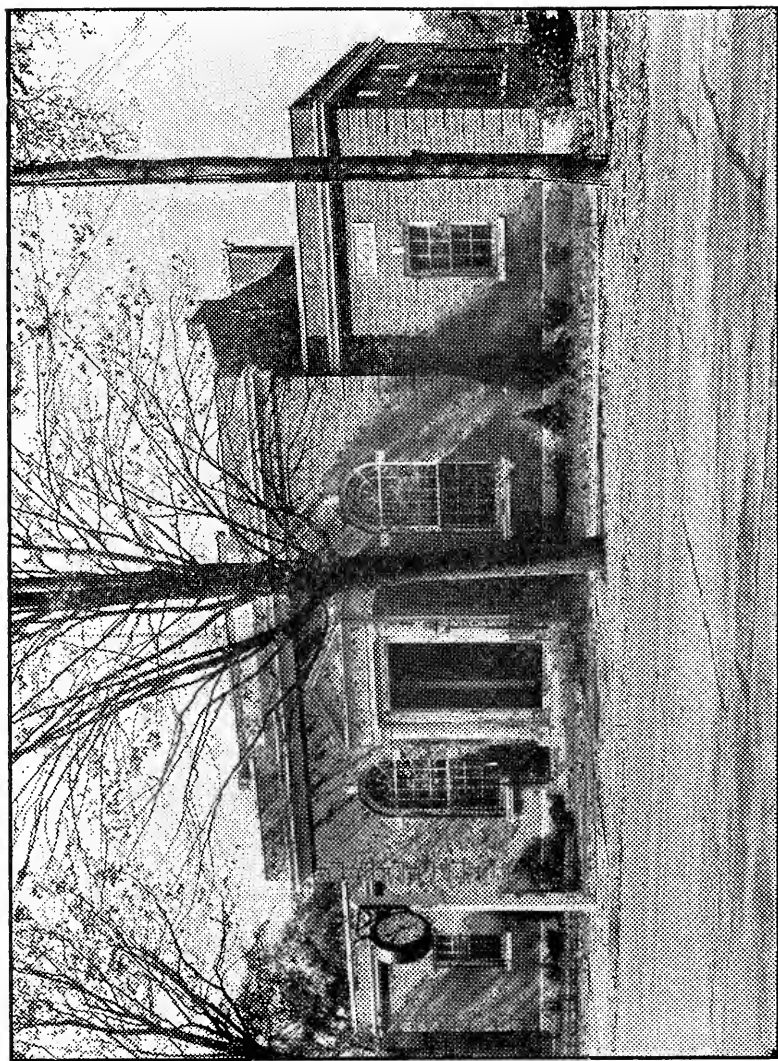
George R. Ford was the first president of the bank and continued in this position until February, 1930, when he became chairman of the Board of Directors and was succeeded as president by Earl E. Edwards.

Those who have held the office of treasurer have been:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| John C. Loomis until                     | 1915 |
| William P. Calder until                  | 1919 |
| Edwin T. Garvin until July,              | 1922 |
| Harold T. Nearing until August,          | 1924 |
| Earl E. Edwards until February,          | 1930 |
| George W. Bill since February,           | 1930 |
| Howard L. Pelton is assistant treasurer. |      |

The present board of directors are:

George R. Ford, Chairman  
 Cecil A. Dickinson  
 James J. Dillon  
 Earl E. Edwards  
 Donald R. Griswold  
 John E. Luddy  
 Charles G. Sandman  
 John B. Stewart  
 Oliver J. Thrall



THE WINDSOR TRUST COMPANY

### Old Houses

In 1933 during Windsor's Tercentenary Celebration of the settlement of the town an exhaustive research was carried on by Leland P. Wilson to determine the number and the age of the houses built before 1800 and still standing. This research revealed the following data. Though the houses listed were all built before 1800 many of them have been remodeled or enlarged since that date.

| <i>Present Owner</i>                      | <i>Date Built</i>                                       | <i>Location</i>                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Waldo C. Everett<br>(See Cut on Page 192) | 1640 or before  | Cor. of Poq. Ave. and East St. |
| Walter H. Smith                           | About 1791 by Gideon Barber, moved here and remodeled   | 361 Poquonock Ave.             |
| Edward Hebebrand                          | About 1754 by Capt. David Barber                        | Near Hayden's Pines            |
| John L. Firtion et al                     | About 1795 by Thos. Moore, Jr. moved here and remodeled | 56-58 Maple Ave.               |
| Florence Snelgrove                        | Prior to 1798 by Henry Allyn                            | 175 Broad St.                  |
| Theo. F. Neuhaus                          | Prior to 1771 by Jonathan Ellsworth                     | 161 Palisado Ave.              |
| L. C. Capewell                            | 1790 by Ethan Barker                                    | 335 Palisado Ave.              |
| F. S. Bidwell                             | 1786 by Capt. Sam'l Allyn                               | 616 Palisado Ave.              |
| Mary E. Parker                            | 1735 by Capt. Sam'l Stoughton                           | 546 Palisado Ave.              |
| Miss E. E. Geer et al                     | 1750 by John Hoskins                                    | 560 Palisado Ave.              |
| Louis A. Clapp                            | 1799 by Roswell Miller                                  | 602 Palisado Ave.              |
| Everett S. Williams                       | 1783 by Capt. Hez. Marsh                                | 34 Windsor Ave.                |
| Anders Christensen                        | 1768 by Elijah Barber                                   | So. Meadow Rd.                 |
| L. L. Rand                                | About 1787 by Lory Drake                                | 195 Windsor Ave.               |
| Johanna B. Young                          | 1790 by Elijah Barber, Jr.                              | 227 Windsor Ave.               |
| Antonio Mantello                          | 1773 by Lemuel Drake                                    | 476 Windsor Ave.               |
| Mary L. Phelps et al                      | 1737 by Phineas Drake                                   | 526 Windsor Ave.               |
| I. R. Dodge et al                         | About 1750 by Capt. Benj. Allyn                         | 546 Windsor Ave.               |
| O. W. Mills                               | 1670 by Thomas Eggleston                                | 573 Windsor Ave.               |
| O. W. Mills                               | 1747 by Samuel Drake                                    | 631-3 Windsor Ave.             |
| Margaret Readett                          | 1796 by Elisha Moore                                    | 699 Windsor Ave.               |
| Eldon L. French                           | 1772 by Serajah Loomis                                  | 949 Windsor Ave.               |

| <i>Present Owner</i>   | <i>Date Built</i>                                   | <i>Location</i>     |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| B. A. Dorph            | 1798 by Ira Loomis, Sr.                             | 1037 Windsor Ave.   |
| Est. W. W. Loomis      | 1798 by Geo. Warner                                 | 1004-6 Windsor Ave. |
| F. A. Hagarty          | 1787 by Benj. Loomis                                | 1065 Windsor Ave.   |
| Mable K. Tyler         | 1752 by Capt. Nath'l Loomis                         | 1174 Windsor Ave.   |
| Miss Frances Bissel    | About 1675 by John Moore                            | 390 Broad St.       |
| R. I. Seymour          | 1796 by Job Drake, moved here and remodeled         | 26 Stinson Pl.      |
| Windsor Public Library | 1777 by Col. Oliver Mather                          | 323-5 Broad St.     |
| Miss Jennie Loomis     | 1690 by Dea. John Loomis<br>Ell by Jos. Loomis 1640 | Island              |



THE LOOMIS HOMESTEAD

|                   |   |                       |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Est. Horace Clark | 1664 by Dea. John Moore<br>moved here and remodeled | 35 Elm St.            |
| Myrtle M. Barnes  | 1745 by Dr. Alex. Wolcott                           | Broad and Phelps Sts. |
| H. H. Ellsworth   | 1732 by Capt. Roger Newberry                        | 180-2 Broad St.       |
| Edw. W. Mack      | 1767 by Elisha Cook                                 | 35 Mack St.           |
| Norman Eddy       | 1742 by John Roberts                                | 84 Poquonock Ave.     |
| F. Lutkevitz      | 1735 by Benedict Alvord                             | 103 Poquonock Ave.    |

| <i>Present Owner</i>   | <i>Date Built</i>                          | <i>Location</i>            |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| F. S. Bidwell          | 1732 by John Palmer                        | 24-26 East St.             |
| Town                   | 1730 by Daniel Phelps                      | 102 East St.               |
| Town                   | 1670 by William Phelps                     | 122 East St.               |
| Adin Hatheway          | About 1650 by John Hillier                 | 140 East St.               |
| Jos. Cranowski         | 1766 by Joel Palmer                        | N/S Pigeon Hill Rd.        |
| James Burns            | 1785 by Eliakim Marshall                   | S/S Pigeon Hill Rd.        |
| U. Yuscavitch          | 1746 by Samuel Phelps                      | 583 Poquonock Ave.         |
| Mable K. Tyler         | 1704 by Cornelius Phelps                   | 601 Poquonock Ave.         |
| Henry W. Thrall        | 1772 by Job Phelps                         | 815 Poquonock Ave.         |
| Mrs. J. O. Fenton      | 1777 by Isaac Pinney                       | 1043 Poquonock Ave.        |
| C. S. Sawyer et al     | 1799 by Grove Clark                        | 1075 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Louis E. Holcomb       | 1785 by Francis Griswold                   | 1207 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Herbert A. Holcomb     | 1776 by Moses Niles                        | 1257 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Est. Maria Phelps      | 1775 by William Phelps                     | 1355 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Mrs. C. M. Kendrick    | 1796 by Joshua Latham                      | 1289 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Timothy Harrington     | 1792 by Abiel Griswold                     | 1397 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Stanton F. Brown       | 1799 by Friend Griswold                    | 1531 Poquonock Ave.        |
| R. A. Hagarty          | 1752 by Joseph Barnard                     | 1601 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Mrs. Kate Alford       | 1795 by Roderick Holcomb                   | N/S Griffin or Elm Gr. Rd. |
| Oscar Parsons          | 1787 by Naomi Griswold                     | S/S Griffin or Elm Gr. Rd. |
| Miss Ellen Kennedy     | 1752 by Martin Holcomb                     | S/S Griffin or Elm Gr. Rd. |
| Clark Bros.            | 1770 by John Phelps                        | S/S Griffin or Elm Gr. Rd. |
| Grace W. Holcomb       | 1782( ?) by John Ross                      | N/S West St.               |
| F. Kirkbride           | 1792 by Edward Phelps                      | 630 Poquonock Ave.         |
| Leone Merwin           | 1762 by Capt. J. Palmer, Jr.               | 760 Poquonock Ave.         |
| Anna Slipkawkas        | 1782 by Benj. Moore                        | 916 Poquonock Ave.         |
| Harry Griswold         | 1761 by Geo. Griswold, Jr.                 | 1090 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Joseph Wolf            | 1777 by Hezekiah Griswold                  | 1290 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Lillian G. Fales       | 1789 by Phineas Griswold                   | 1312 Poquonock Ave.        |
| John Welch             | 1798 by Cyrus Phelps                       | 1368 Poquonock Ave.        |
| John Laverty           | About 1790 by Capt. Silvanus Griswold      | 1832 Poquonock Ave.        |
| Magdalena Brozowsky    | About 1765 by Isaac Phelps                 | 268 East Granby Rd.        |
| First Church of Christ | 1794                                       |                            |
| Paul Kazanouski        | About 1790 by Capt. Ebenezer Fitch Bissell | 1022 Palisado Ave.         |
| Eliz. H. J. Robinson   | 1753 by Rev. Wm. Russell                   | 101 Palisado Ave.          |
| Jos. A. Oldroyd        | About 1775 by Benoni Denslow               | E/S Windsor Locks Rd.      |



| <i>Present Owner</i>                           | <i>Date Built</i>                                  | <i>Location</i>     |
|--|--|---------------------|
| James Moran                                    | 1787 by Daniel Porter                              | N/S 25 Pierson Lane |
| Annie Sill                                     | 1790 by Dorson Drake                               | 225 Palisado Ave.   |
| Est. Mary Carey                                | 1740 by Alex. Ellsworth                            | 273 Palisado Ave.   |
| Anton G. Arens                                 | 1791 by Moses Mitchell<br>moved here and remodeled | 375 Palisado Ave.   |
| Eliz. T. Samuels                               | About 1764 by Taylor Chap-<br>man                  | 407 Palisado Ave.   |
| Christen Christensen                           | About 1827 by Wm. Thrall                           | 495 Palisado Ave.   |
| Sarah Morehouse                                | 1747 moved here and re-<br>modeled                 | 531 Palisado Ave.   |
| Timothy J. Kennedy                             | 1772 by John Gaylord                               | 597 Palisado Ave.   |
| Mary Stakevitch                                | 1750 by Capt. David Ells-<br>worth                 | 761 Palisado Ave.   |
| Bessie Elmer                                   | 1773 by Isaac Hayden                               | 957 Palisado Ave.   |
| Geo. Hoskins et al                             | 1783 by Alpheus Munsell                            | 1055 Palisado Ave.  |
| Willard Drake                                  | 1763 by Capt. Nath'l Hayden                        | 130 Pink St.        |
| Willard Drake                                  | 1770 by John Hayden                                | 162-4 Pink St.      |
| James Simmons                                  | 1737 by Sgt. Samuel Hayden                         | 216 Pink St.        |
| Windsor Hist. Society<br>(See Cut on Page 189) | 1640 by Lt. Walter Fyler                           | 96 Palisado Ave.    |
| F. W. Morgan                                   | 1730 by Capt. Samuel Cross                         | North Meadow Rd.    |
| James Garvan                                   | 1786 by Jonathan Alvord                            | North Meadow Rd.    |
| Alice Morgan et al                             | About 1780 by Elisha Strong                        | North Meadow Rd.    |
| F. W. Morgan                                   | Prior to 1726 by Return<br>Strong                  | North Meadow Rd.    |
| Ralph Morgan                                   | Prior to 1800 (moved to<br>present location)       | 34 Palisado Ave.    |
| Mrs. Minnie Hastings et al                     | About 1767 by Thos. Hayden                         | North Meadow Rd.    |
| Loomis Institute                               | 1765 by Hezekiah Chaffee                           | 108 Palisado Ave.   |
| Loomis Institute                               | 1772 by James Hooker                               | 118 Palisado Ave.   |
| E. J. Phelps et al                             | 1790 by Horace Hooker                              | 204 Palisado Ave.   |
| John Granger                                   | 1790 by Elijah Mather                              | 248 Palisado Ave.   |
| Thomas Garvin et al                            | 1767 by Elijah Mather                              | 256 Palisado Ave.   |
| H. H. Ellsworth                                | 1784 by Jonathan Ellsworth                         | 336 Palisado Ave.   |
| D. A. R.<br>(See Cut on Page 268)              | 1740 by Jonathan Ellsworth                         | Palisado Ave.       |
| Samuel Shoham                                  | 1800 by Josiah Bissell                             | 924 Palisado Ave.   |
| Annie Sill                                     | 1800 by Dr. Elisha N. Sill                         | 200 Palisado Ave.   |

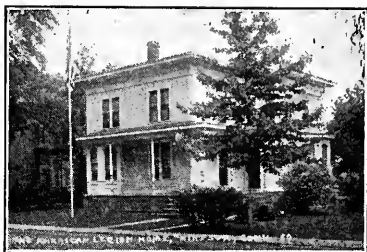


### The Allyn House

The famous Allyn House built by Squire Henry Allyn who died in 1753 was occupied by the builder and his family and also by his son Squire Henry who died in 1804. As justice of the peace these two "Squires" administered justice to two generations in all parts of Hartford County.

Their home stood just north of the later home of Judge H. Sidney Hayden where the Episcopal Rectory now stands and was considered during the life time of its builder the grandest house in town.

Here was the center of the community's social activities and here also was the "Squire's" court of justice. It was painted red and was an imposing structure. It is related that a child from a distant part of the town saw it for the first time and reported to his parents that he had seen "Heaven, the big house where the angels live." It was standing in a dilapidated condition in 1859, and must have been torn down soon after that date.



LEGION HOME

In its day the Allyn House reproduced above made history as a social center. Today there is no private home that can be regarded as its successor, but the American Legion Home, formerly the home for many years of Dr. Frederick W. Harri-man has made history as a center of culture and moral influence and it seems destined to continue to make history as the center from which the American Legion exert their social and moral influence upon the boys' and girls' organizations that they sponsor and upon the general community. With this thought in mind it is here reproduced as the history making home of today.

### Looking Towards the Future

The last quarter of a century has seen more numerous and more rapid changes than any previous period of equal length in Windsor's history. The momentum of the past and the opportunities of the present make it necessary to expect and prepare for more and greater changes in the future.

The town has been favored by nature. Her soil, her climate, and her natural surroundings and attractions can hardly be surpassed. These were discovered by the early pioneers and must have had their influence in causing the first English settlers to build here in the year 1633. They have their influence still in bringing new home seekers to the Ancient Town.

The town has developed one of the best highway systems in a state noted for good roads and streets. Its school system has taken rank among the most liberal, practical, and thorough

educational systems in Connecticut. Its government has been alert and public spirited and changes policies and methods to fit the changing needs of modern social and political conditions. Its churches, fraternal organizations, and social groups abundantly provide for the social and religious life.

Wilson and Windsor Center have district organizations that furnish practically urban government in the matter of streets, sewers, water, and sanitation. These villages and Poquonock have efficient fire companies, which offer protection to their own residents and also to outlying districts. Growth is inevitable. Therefore provision to meet its necessities is dictated by wisdom and experience, and the recent period of the "great depression" has been utilized to provide plans for future needs.

The federal aid that came to Windsor during the period of the Washington Bicentennial was largely utilized in building Washington Memorial Park at Windsor Center, thus providing a much needed recreation ground for the community. Other parks are needed.

In September, 1934, with the support of the federal government a project was set on foot to study the existing conditions in the town from a municipal engineering point of view.

The project was carried out under the direction of Edgar T. Duncan, an experienced municipal engineer, who was placed in charge of ten assistants.

The first product of this enterprise was a land use map, showing every piece of property and every building in the town and the uses to which they are put. This map, seven by ten feet in size, now hangs in the town hall at Windsor Center.

The next enterprise was concerned with education. A study was made to determine the number of pupils in the different areas of the town, the valuation of the property in those areas, the tax income per pupil, and the possible sites for school buildings probably needed for future schools.

Another study dealt with the subject of a civic center and suggestive plans and drawings were made of a possible home for the town's official business with offices for all depart-

ments, rooms for a library, the historical society, and the town court, and an auditorium for community gatherings.

Another study will provide similarly for Poquonock and the rest of the town.

Parks and playgrounds will receive special attention.

By July, 1936, it is planned to complete a survey of every street in the town not already surveyed and chartered.

The records of vital statistics and other town records not fully indexed in the past have now been indexed, classified, and arranged in a systematic manner that adds greatly to their usefulness.

This is one of the many signs that while Windsor is studying her past and celebrating its achievements, she is looking toward the future and planning for a greater, a richer, and a better life in the years to come.

### Windsor Newspapers

The Ancient Town waited long and patiently for the coming of a local newspaper. Then on January 1, 1886, the Windsor Herald was born. Its front page was headed by a letter from the well known historian of Ancient Windsor, Dr. Henry R. Stiles, who had been invited to contribute something for publication. The opening paragraph of his letter began with these words:

My dear Sir,

Write for your paper? Shade of Matthew Grant! that eminent recorder of current events in old Windsor's history—what next? A newspaper in Windsor! Well, you must be a brave man to suggest such a thing.

The editorial page was prefaced by this announcement:

Circulation,

2,000 Copies, Free.

W. C. Gompf, Editor

Windsor, Friday, January 1.

The Editor then continued as follows:

#### SALUTATION

“We have no axe to grind. We do not promise to appear more than once. Our object is to ‘promote the general welfare.’ Windsor is a beautiful and attractive place, and must ultimately become a suburb of the ‘Hub’ It is the purpose of the HERALD to present some of the country advantages of the town to the city folks, hoping to induce some of them to locate here. We have no blows to give, nor any apologies to make. Our fight is against the evils of the place, and not men. If this issue serves to deepen the love for the old town in any of its citizens’ hearts, our end will have been attained.”

That the purpose of the paper was the social and civic improvement of the town is shown by the following extracts from articles appearing in the pages of its first issue.

#### WHY WE OUGHT TO HAVE A TOWN LIBRARY

One of the great needs of our town is some place for both young and old to spend their evenings, and what could be better suited to meet this need than a public reading room and library? We boast of our town as one of the oldest and most cultered in the commonwealth, yet we do little to increase this culture, or even to keep the literary standard of our people on a par with neighboring towns. Will not some of our townspeople realize the advantage—not only morally and mentally, but financially—that money spent in establishing a library and reading-room would be to the town? Five or six thousand dollars would put the enterprise upon a firm basis. Then, with judicious management, it could be made nearly or quite self-supporting.

It is true we are near Hartford, but how few can make use of the libraries there—not more than six or eight. We want a library here in our midst, with its shelves well filled, and the sooner this is appreciated by our good citizens, the better it will be for the welfare of our town.

#### THE BRIDGE

New bridges are now made open and constructed of iron. Fenton’s bridge is not that kind of a bridge. It is quite long, made of wood, covered, sides close without an opening, dark

and musty. The town pays \$50 per year to light (?) the structure, but a good sized diamond would give as much light on a dark night as one small lantern. At the top of the west side of the bridge several boards are off, whether by intention or not we don't know, but how could we find our way through the long tunnel without the blessed rays of light streaming through those openings? A man must eat a peck of dirt during his life, but we surmise that the people from the north end of the town must have made way with somebody else's share also, unless they cross the river in a boat.

#### BROAD STREET RAILROAD CROSSING

We have waited long, and we are waiting still, but the consolidated road couldn't treat any other town so ill as they have Windsor in regard to this crossing. The street leads to the chapel, Congregational church, the North Green, Haydens, Springfield, Boston, and unto death. It would puzzle Nicodemus more to tell why a railroad company waits for a man to be killed, and then to be sued, paying heavy damages, before erecting a gate, than what conversion is.

#### 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. This property included their reservoir 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 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 all 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.

#### GUN MAKING IN 1886

Among the interesting advertisements is one by the Spencer Arms Company, which contains this statement:

“Our shops at Windsor are now turning out 10 Guns per day, and that does not keep pace with the increasing demand for this gun.”

The gun referred to was the Spencer Repeating Shotgun.

This newspaper continued its issue until July 1, 1886, when Mr. Gompf, who had been an ardent advocate of the prohibition of the saloon, turned his paper over to the National Issue, a prohibition newspaper, which continued the Herald as a supplement until the original paid-up subscriptions had expired.

#### “THE DIAL”

Ten years later another Windsor publication appeared—this time in the form of a magazine to be issued monthly. Its title was “The Dial.” Its first issue headed “A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Town of Windsor” was dated June 1, 1896.

Its official announcement read:

Board of Editors

Editor in Chief, Howard W. Benjamin

Editorial Writers, Henry A. Huntington, R. Arthur Hagarty



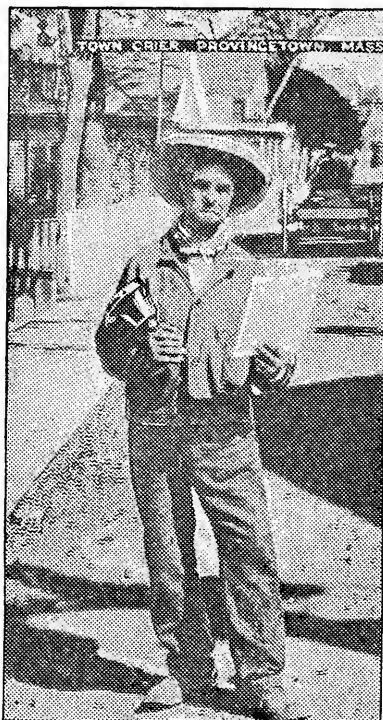
Art Editor, C. Robert Hatheway  
Business Manager, George J. Merwin

This magazine was a high grade production, judged by all the usual tests, but only four issues came from the press.

#### THE TOWN CRIER

In January, 1916, a third venture in journalism was launched. The Town Crier extended New Year's Greetings to the people of Windsor. The editor and publisher was George E. Crosby, Jr., whose purpose and ambition was to promote a more active interest on the part of Windsor citizens in the civic, social and industrial problems of the Ancient Town.

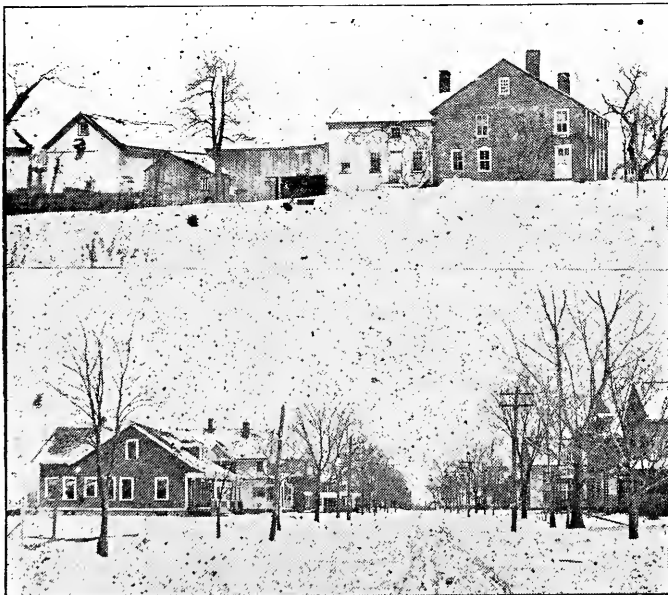
He took as his model propagandist the Town Crier, an honored official of colonial communities in many parts of New England but one not prominent in Windsor history. For



this reason Mr. Crosby had to go outside the limits of Connecticut to find a modern representative of this ancient news dispenser. He found him in Provincetown, Massachusetts, a town that still delights to listen to the voice of its Town Crier as he promulgates important announcements and proclaims news of unusual interest and significance. The preceding cut of this Provincetown celebrity became emblematic of Mr. Crosby's publication.

The Windsor Town Crier appeared regularly each month for two full years, after which Mr. Crosby found the burden too great for a man already heavily loaded with other responsibilities, and it was discontinued.

Its pages today furnish a most valuable record of the typical activities of Windsor at the time of their publication. Biographical sketches of many Windsor men and women are



THE HUBBARD HOUSE AND WILSON AVENUE

The upper illustration shows the Hubbard House on Windsor Avenue at the top of the hill north of Wolcott Avenue. It is the oldest brick house in Windsor. Built by Thomas Eggleston and sold to Thomas Allen. The lower view shows Wilson Avenue looking east.

here preserved. Many phases of early town history receive careful study whose results the Town Crier announced in concise and accurate reports. The publication was popular and its influence was helpful to every cause its editor espoused.

Each number carried the Editor's Salutation to his loved Windsor: "In years, the Oldest Town in the State; in Spirit, The Youngest!" He made it a treasure house of the things he loved and prized in Windsor's life and history. Every number was profusely illustrated. There were portraits of well known persons, cuts of historic houses, and views of historic or sentimental interest. Three typical illustrations we reproduce.



THE FERRY LANE

This lane is a continuation of the short road running south from the southeast corner of Palisado Green. It runs east and southeast to the river bank where the ferry boats landed and took on passengers in early colonial times.

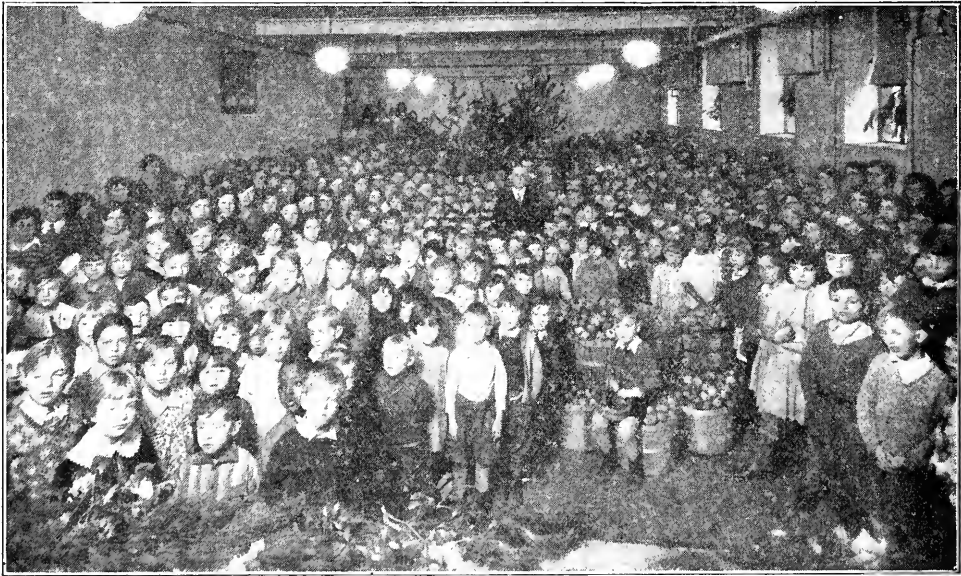


ON THE OLD ROAD TO HARTFORD

A view of the now unused road south of Loomis Institute

## ANOTHER "WINDSOR HERALD"

The next interval covered eight years and another Windsor Herald appeared in the Spring of 1926 with Hugh Ballantyne as editor in charge. Later the Rev. Victor L. Greenwood was associated with him. In less than three years Mr. Ballantyne withdrew from the management, and a few months later, on May 16, 1929, Frank E. Perley, formerly of New York, became the head of a new company known as the Windsor Publishing Company, which continues to issue the paper—a weekly—from its office in the Casino on the east side of Broad Street Green.



## A CHRISTMAS EPISODE

Children in the public schools are taught to remember the needy and the less fortunate at Christmas time. These pupils in the Roger Wolcott School bring potatoes one day, apples the next, and pennies the third. Then they sing carols around a Christmas tree and divide their gifts between a representative of the Community Church and a representative of St. Gertrude's Church, who distribute them to those in want.

# Celebrations

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This book comes into being because during this year (1935) all Connecticut is holding a Tercentenary Celebration. It is a Tercentenary production intended to be a part of Windsor's contribution to the State's program. Windsor celebrated the Tercentenary of her own settlement in 1933. Windsor has had other notable celebrations that have told the story of the past. In 1876 she celebrated the Centennial of American Independence. In 1880 she celebrated the Quarter Millennial Anniversary of Ye Ancient Church in Windsor, which is the oldest Congregational Church in America, the oldest church of any kind in Connecticut, and the church whose early history was almost identical with the early history of the town.

Therefore the history of the First Church together with much other early history is taken from the carefully prepared papers and addresses that were an important part of the programs of those historic occasions.

A card sent out in 1876 to the people of Windsor and the nearby daughter towns of Old Windsor read:

## WINDSOR

*The Oldest Town in Connecticut.*

*Centennial Picnic on Broad Street Green,*

*July 4th, 1876, at 11 A. M.*

*All the inhabitants of Windsor are hereby requested to join in rendering suitable testimonial in honor of the coming Fourth of July.*

*We remember gratefully our noble heritage; the first page of one hundred years proves its value.*

H. Sidney Hayden, Thomas W. Loomis, T. S. Phelps, R. D. Case, and Thomas Duncan were the Committee of Arrangements, who extended the invitation.

Jabez H. Hayden of Windsor Locks delivered the historical address from which the following excerpts are taken.

One hundred years ago today, a Windsor soldier in the city of New York sat down to write a letter to his parents. Two days before, Washington had issued an order to the army, portraying the perilous condition of the country, and the momentous interests at stake in the impending battle. Finding in this order what best expressed his own sentiments regarding the situation, the soldier copied from it until drum-beat called him to lay aside his pen, and resume his musket.

Camp New York, July 4, 1776.

Honored Father and Mother:

“The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves: whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and they consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will probably deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us no choice but a brave resistance, or the most abject submission. This is all we can expect. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die. Our country’s honor calls upon us for a vigorous and manly exertion, and if we now shamefully fail, we shall become infamous to the whole world. Let us rely upon the goodness of our cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions. The eyes of all our countrymen are now upon us, and we shall have their blessings and praises if, happily, we are the instruments of saving them from the tyranny meditated against them.

Let us animate and encourage each other, and show to the whole world that a freeman contending for liberty on his own ground, is superior to any slavish mercenary on earth.

The General recommends to the officers great coolness in time of action, and to the soldiers strict attention and obedience, with a becoming firmness of spirit.”

The drum beats, and I must turn out with fatigue men and main guard. 'Tis, thanks be to God, pretty healthy in the army.

Your affectionate son,

Hezekiah Hayden.

While this soldier, to whom we shall again refer, sat copying these noble sentiments in New York, John Hancock and his associates were signing the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia—a declaration which would have availed nothing, but for the good right arms of the soldiers who defended it, and the patriotic zeal of those at home, who sustained the soldiers. It is fitting that we today recall some of the sacrifices and services rendered by this mother of towns, in the accomplishment of the Independence which this great nation celebrates today. It is fitting that the children come forth today to honor the worthies who one hundred years ago won our independence, and take lessons in love of country, from the story of the past.

None of the school children before me have ever looked upon a soldier of the Revolution. Some in middle life have talked with those whose memory ran back to 1776, and a few of us who have lived more than half a century have listened to the tales of the old soldiers themselves. We will repeat something from these revolutionary stories, and then turn back to history to examine briefly what had been the training of the generations which preceded them, and which qualified the people of 1776 to deliberately meet, and bravely endure, the fearful trials of that culminating hour in our history, which severed our colonial dependence and gave us Independence.

Open hostilities had broken out between the people of Massachusetts and the mother country more than a year before the signing of the declaration.

I need not tell these school boys of Paul Revere's ride to rouse the people to resist the British soldiers who were leaving Boston to destroy the military stores at Concord, or the resistance they met. There was no telegraphic communication to say to the people of Connecticut on that 19th day of April, 1775, what was being done at Lexington and Concord. But

when those "Red-coats" had been pelted back to Boston, there went forth couriers to spread the alarm through New England. The day after, on the 20th of April, the people of this part of Windsor were attending the funeral of their Pastor, Rev. Mr. Russell. While they were engaged in these services, either at their church, which then stood at the north end of this green, or assembled around his open grave, a rider drew up his panting steed, and told of the Battle of Lexington. The funeral services ended, men hurried to their homes and seized their muskets; the dreaded war had come. In imitation of Paul Revere, another rider on a fresh horse caught up the shout,

"And a hurry of hoofs in a village street"

soon carried the dispatch to Suffield, and thus from town to town spread the "Lexington alarm." That night was one of preparation. Many a wife and mother toiled through the night, to equip a soldier, ready to go forth on the morrow. When mustered on that 21st day of April, 1775, there stood twenty-three Windsor men with Captain Nathaniel Hayden at their head, who at once took up their march towards Boston. Through all that summer and the coming winter, Windsor men were enlisting into the army, and when July 4th, 1776, was reached, Windsor was almost depleted of her able-bodied men. The little neighborhood of Pinemeadow, now Windsor Locks, consisted of nine families,—the head of all but one of those families was in the army. The British had been driven out of Boston, and were now advancing on New York, and it was of momentous importance to the colonies that New York be held. 10,000 Connecticut soldiers were in New York in August, 1776.

While the men were bearing arms to uphold the Declaration, the women took up the implements of husbandry, and toiled in fields. Many a sunburnt girl who took up the work of a brother, or father, to supply the necessities of the family, took up that work with a patriotic zeal equal to that of the soldier whose place she filled, and many a doting mother, or loving wife, put forth heroic efforts to feed the children at home, and the soldiers at the front. Then there came a time, when the stern law of necessity required from every barn in Windsor, all the grain there found, above a given amount for



each member of the household depending upon it. And again the constituted authorities went forth in search of lead for bullets.\* There came a time when not a clock was running in Windsor; the lead weights of the last one had been run into bullets.

\*"Lead delivered to the Town's Men, 1776. Clock weight lead." Capt. Stoughton, 18 lbs. Capt. Ellsworth, 30 lbs. Rev. Mr. Hinsdale, 13 lbs. Josiah Allen, 28 lbs. David Ellsworth, Jr., 24 lbs. Daniel Hayden, 24 lbs., and John Allen, 14 lbs.—Town Records.

We smile when we think of a people submitting to such exactions, a people who were periling everything in resistance to the exactions of King George, and the maintenance of the Declaration of Independence. There were those who failed to see the corresponding good. Mr. Eliakim Mather, who lived on the street nearly a mile north of the old church, declared the taking of his clock weights to be an illegal and arbitrary act, and took an oath that his clock should stand without weights, until the authority which took them away, returned them. Through all the long 30 years of the old man's after life, the old clock was to him an unmoved witness to his persevering observance of his oath; and when, at the age of 84, he looked for the last time upon the face of his clock, it still gave no sound.

Alarms called forth volunteers from time to time, when the enemy threatened some portion of our own state. The "Danbury Alarm" was responded to by Mr. Daniel Phelps, a man of more than three score years and ten, (grandfather of the late Deacon Roger Phelps), and the late Deacon Daniel Gillett, and probably others. Each was mounted and carrying a musket hastened forward only to meet the returning volunteers, who told of the burning of Danbury, and the retreat of the British. The old man sighed that he could not get "one shot at the Red-coats." But turning back he reached a ferry where numbers of impatient riders were waiting their turn, who with one consent declared that their rule should not apply to the old man, and the old man's plea took his companion with him. Late that night they reached the house of a friend, where the weary old man, in utter exhaustion, laid him down

and died, and the younger volunteer returned to his home alone.

Mr. Daniel Bissell, Jr., who lived half a mile this side of Hayden Station, a man of iron nerve, was asked to take the perilous office of a Spy. Washington had asked for a suitable man, Daniel Bissell was named, and he accepted the position, received his instructions, and like his predecessor, "the Martyr Hale," he passed within the lines of the British. The thrilling story of his experiences within the lines, and his final escape from them, is too long to tell here. In my early childhood, in nearly every second house north of the river, there lived an old man who had been a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and I doubt not, this side of the river, and through Poquonock the same evidences of patriotism were equally manifest. More than half a century after the close of the war the pension rolls show more than fifty Windsor pensioners.

After the war was over there was a great work to be done to establish over the whole country the system of government so long before organized in New England. After twelve years (from the date of the declartion), of inefficient government under the Confederacy, our glorious Constitution was framed and adopted. A distinguished citizen of Windsor, Oliver Ellsworth, took a prominent part in the convention which framed it, drafting the articles relating to the Judiciary.

C E N T E N N I A L O D E .

BY REV. R. H. TUTTLE.

(1.)

The Chroniclers have told  
 How Windsor castle old  
 For centuries has been the home of kings;  
 The grandeur of the place,  
 Prized by the English race,  
 A thing of beauty which the poet sings.

(2.)

But Windsor castle here,  
 Built by a race austere,  
 By those who slept at night upon their arms,  
 Was the old Palisade  
 The Indian did invade,  
 Which Pilgrims guarded nightly 'mid alarms.

(3.)

Now after lapse of years  
Of human briefs and fears,  
The wonderous century plant for us doth bloom;  
Ye nations of the earth  
Come to our social hearth,  
For unto all we gladly say, "give room."

(4.)

Though the wild winds may roar  
Upon the mountain hoar,  
And fearful lightnings hurtle through the sky;  
Though waves of passion cast  
Their fury 'fore the blast—  
We know that God is nigh.

(5.)

For now the Northern star  
Beams not on scenes of war,  
Where once the battle poured its gory tide;  
We mourn sad years of loss,  
Yet still the Southern cross  
Bids us stand side by side.

(6.)

We still are brothers all,  
And at our Country's call  
Would each and all defend her to the last;  
We ever pray for peace,  
For years when war shall cease,  
And hence for ever every strife be cast.

(7.)

Jesus of Bethlehem  
We touch thy garment's hem,  
As through the nations, Thou art passing by;  
For prophets have foretold  
That Thou art King, of old.  
Yea, everlastingly.

(8.)

For all our worldly things,  
Blessings, Thy Gospel brings,  
And every gift Thy free rich grace affords;  
Ever we bow to Thee,  
Thy hand in all we see,  
We hail Thee King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Mr. Franklin Bolles, of Windsor, was introduced, and read the following poem:

Windsor, thy sons today would crown  
Thy name with honor and renown;  
Thy daughters would *their* rivals be,  
In the loved work of praising thee.

O, ancient, brave, historic town,  
Thy name deserves the brightest crown;  
And while thy praise the muses sing,  
Our hearts a grateful tribute bring.

Among our towns thou wast first born.  
Thy first crops pumpkins, Indian corn;  
Brave men, and maidens sweet and fair,  
Were also raised, with tenderest care.

'Twas here our fathers wrought in pain,  
Freedom to sow, nor wrought in vain,  
The seed brought forth a harvest grand,  
That now waves over all our land.

The king had sent unto our shore  
His minions, who the red coats wore;  
And Indian foes, on either hand,  
Were dwelling near, a treacherous band.

Those days were dark, men quaked with fear,  
For many a tory, too, was here;  
Those were the times that patriots tried,  
Still they believed God would provide.

Upon a pleasant April morn,  
When Russell\* to his grave was borne,  
When prayer was done, when read the Word,  
The sound of hurrying hoofs was heard,

Then came the news. On panting steed  
Came messenger with utmost speed.  
Arouse! brave men, the war's begun,  
At Concord, and at Lexington.

And hasty hoof to Suffield's farms,  
Soon spread the Lexington alarms;  
Man left the forge, the shop, the field,  
Vowed that to Britain they'd ne'er yield.

\*Rev. Mr. Russell.

That night in preparation spent,  
At dawn of day they marching went.  
They left their homes at rosy morn,  
With blanket, musket, powder horn.

Those heroes, when the work was done  
Assigned to them, beneath the sun,  
On yonder hill, in peace were laid,  
Their bones within the palisade.

Upon the scroll of deathless fame,  
Should be inscribed the honored names  
Of Windsor men, their brave compeers,  
The noble men of those dark years.

In all things, for the good of man,  
Old Windsor, she has led the van;  
Her sons have helped to mould the State,  
In all that's noble, good, or great.

The *nation* felt their moulding powers,  
When passing through her darkest hours,  
Their influence, down the years has passed,  
And will through coming ages last.

Thy sturdy sons, whom God hath blest,  
Are known throughout the mighty west,  
From where Atlantic's billows roar,  
They're dwellers to Pacific's shore.

Thy sons returning to our State,  
If rich or poor, humble or great,  
Where'er you dwell, where'er you roam,  
Thrice welcome ever to our home.

Grandfather's chair is empty now,  
And age your father's head doth bow;  
Your mother soon will pass away;  
'Tis well you're home again today.

Our fertile fields are fresh and green,  
In nature's face God's love is seen;  
He whispers in the passing breeze,  
Sweet words drop from these grand old trees.

Our rivers, sparkling 'neath the sun,  
Connecticut, and Farmington,  
Once, o'er their waters deep and blue,  
Floated the Indian's light canoe.

Where, 'neath these genial northern skies,  
Save here, was Indians' paradise?  
Say! where do brighter waters gleam  
Beneath the sun, than yonder stream?

Partridge and turkey did abound  
Through all this Indian hunting ground,  
But better now, on every plain,  
We pluck the corn, and reap the grain.

Gone from the woods are buck and doe;  
No more we meet the savage foe;  
Their bones, they mingle dust with dust,  
Their buried hatchets changed to rust.

How great the change that Time hath wrought,  
The freedom that the years have brought;  
Our fathers sowed the seed in pain,  
We garner freedom's ripened grain.

What father here can tell the son  
The half a hundred years have done?  
What mighty change that steam hath wrought?  
The wisdom that the press hath taught?

But, ah! the peace that reigneth here,  
It cost the blood of brothers dear;  
Fair maidens gave their dearest ones,  
The widowed mothers gave their sons.

Weep not for those whose toils are o'er,  
Sweet peace broods o'er the farther shore;  
They're done with pain and earthly strife,  
Are born again to endless life.

My friends, today you may rejoice,  
For the air rings with freedom's voice;  
Beneath our vine and fig tree's shade  
We sit, with none to make afraid.

O God, let peace reign o'er this land,  
All nations form a brother band;  
O'er bloody chasm let true men clasp  
Their hands for aye, in friendly grasp.

And when we join our vanished ones,  
O God, inspire our living sons;  
And ever guided by thy will,  
May Town and Nation prosper still.

### Quarter Millennial of the First Church

The Quarter Millennial Anniversary of the First Church was held March 30, 1880. The Rev. Gowen C. Wilson, then Pastor, gave an address on the history of the Church from which the following extracts are taken:

In 1629 three ships were sent over with between three and four hundred persons, who set down at a place which they called Salem, for they hoped to find there a home of peace, where persecution would no longer harass them. In the Spring



THE REV. GOWEN C. WILSON

of the following year it was decided to remove the Government of the colony to America, and a compact was signed by great numbers in different parts of England who engaged to remove thither, and a large fleet was collected for their transportation. "These," says Green, "were not like the early colonists of the South, broken men, adventurers, bankrupts, criminals, or simply poor men and artizans like the Pilgrim Fathers of the Mayflower. They were in great part men of the professional and middle classes, some of them of large estate." Indeed, they desired "only the best as sharers of their enterprize,—men driven forth from their fatherland not by earthly want, nor by the greed of gold, nor by love of adventure, but by the fear of God and the zeal for a godly worship." Of this fleet of seventeen ships which in 1630 brought over Gov. Winthrop with his deputy and assistants, together with about fifteen hundred souls, the first to sail was the "Mary and John" of four hundred tons, with one hundred and forty passengers from the southwest part of England. These gathered at Plymouth early in March. The company had been carefully made up with all the elements needed for an independent colony. Two members of the government were with them, Messrs. Ludlow and Rossiter. They had also a military man of some experience, Capt. John Mason, besides two clergymen under whose ministry many of them had sat in the land which they were about to leave. While they tarried at Plymouth, making ready for departure, it was thought best to gather the Church and set over it these ministers as pastor and teacher. The reason for this step is not positively known, but it has been suggested, and with some probability at least, that it may have been through fear of the influence of the Separatists in America.

The first company, after landing at Salem, had fraternized with the Plymouth men when they came to meet them and understand their views; and when a Church was to be organized at Salem, Gov. Endicott received messengers from the Church at Plymouth, who gave them the right hand of fellowship. This Church, though it still professed "not to separate from the Church of England, but only from its corruptions," may have seemed to their brethren at home a little too cordial



towards the schismatics; and since their next ship, the *Mary and John*, was likely to arrive somewhat in advance of the *Arbella*, in which Gov. Winthrop was to sail, it is not improbable that Rev. John White and others of the company advised the organization of the Church in England to forestall the evil influences of Plymouth. The only detailed account which we have of the organization of the Church is that given by Roger Clap, then a young man about twenty-one years of age. He had joined the company from admiration of Mr. Warham as a preacher, having heard him in Exeter, England. And in an account of his life, written when an old man for the benefit of his children, he says, after describing the company gathered at Plymouth, "These godly people resolved to live together, and therefore as they had made choice of those two Reverend Servants of God, Mr. John Warham and Mr. John Maverick, to be their ministers, so they kept a day of solemn fasting in the New Hospital, . . . spending it in preaching and praying, where the worthy man of God, Mr. John White of Dorchester, in Dorset, was present and preached unto us the fore part of the day, and in the latter part of the day, as the people did solemnly make choice of and call those godly ministers to be their officers, so also the Rev. Mr. Warham and Mr. Maverick did accept thereof and expressed the same." Beyond this, Mr. Clap tells us nothing, and perhaps we should expect nothing further from one who was present as a youth, and not a member of the Church. But Prince, the learned pastor of the Old South Church, Boston, in his *Annals of New England*, written only a hundred years after, says, on the authority of a manuscript letter then in his possession, that Messrs. Warham and Maverick were then re-ordained as their ministers; and in a note then added, says: "These had also been ordained ministers by Bishops in the Church of England, and they are now only separated to the especial care of this people." Just so they ordained Mr. John Wilson, pastor of the Church in Charlestown. A few months later making this minute: "We used imposition of hands, but with the protestation by all that it was only as a sign of election and confirmation, and not of any intent that Mr. Wilson should renounce his ministry which he received in England." Thus far in

every respect the proceedings at the formation of this Church in Plymouth, England, were followed by the churches formed under the same supervision, and but a few months later, both in Charlestown and also in Watertown, where Mr. Phillips was set over a part of the company that arrived with Gov. Winthrop only a few weeks after the Mary and John. But as no mention is made of any *covenant* which was subscribed to by this Church at the first, it has been doubted by some if they had any; Mr. Clap's silence proves nothing. He was then but a young man and not himself a member. But these people had come together comparative strangers from different towns and counties, and were entering into Church relations with intent to live together in Christian fellowship; and though they may not have attached the same significance to a covenant then as later, the probability is that they had one, if not at the very first, yet shortly after, when other churches of their company and under the same government were so organized. It would be only a simple form of agreement, however, similar to that signed at Charlestown on the 30th of July by Gov. Winthrop and Rev. John Wilson and two others, and by more than fifty in all before August, when the Church was fully organized. That covenant read thus: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in obedience to his holy, wise, and divine ordinances, we, whose names are here underwritten being by his most wise and good providence brought together into this part of America, in the Bay of Massachusetts, and desirous to unite into one Congregation or Church under the Lord Jesus Christ our Head, in such sort as becometh all those whom he hath redeemed and sanctified to himself, do hereby solemnly and religiously, as in his most holy presence, promise and bind ourselves to walk in all our ways according to the rule of the Gospel, and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances, and in mutual love and respect to each other, so near as God shall give us grace." A somewhat similar covenant was signed at Watertown by about forty men besides women. In these two places together there must have been more than a thousand people at this time, and most of them baptized persons no doubt, yet only about a hundred entered into covenant with the churches at first, and the same thing

was probably true of the Dorchester company when they organized a few months earlier. Roger Clap himself was not a member at first, though no doubt a baptized person as all the children of the church were in those days. And he describes his father as "a man fearing God and in good estate among God's faithful servants." If this moral and religiously inclined young man though baptized was not accounted a member of the church, there must have been something to distinguish its members from others. It could not be mere confirmation by a Bishop. The Puritans had little to do with Bishops in that country and none in this. Milton, writing of them in 1641, says, "What numbers of faithful and free-born Englishmen and good Christians have been constrained to forsake their dearest home, their friends and kindred, whom nothing but the wide ocean and the savage deserts of America could hide and shelter from the fury of the Bishops." But once on this side the ocean they no longer recognized the authority of Archbishop Laud or any other Bishop of the National Church.

The continued persecution of the Puritans in England caused a rapid emigration to America, until, as Cotton Mather says, "The Massachusetts Colony was become like an hive over-stocked with bees." But information was received, through Indians at first, of the rich open lands along the Connecticut river, only a hundred miles farther on; and the earlier settlers in Newtown, Watertown, and Dorchester became restless and sought consent of the Court as early as 1634 to remove. At length, in May and June, 1635, consent was granted them on the supposition that it was not beyond the jurisdiction of that Colony. At once the removal commenced of individuals from each of these towns, and beginnings were made at Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield, which towns bore the names of those their people came from, for a year or more.

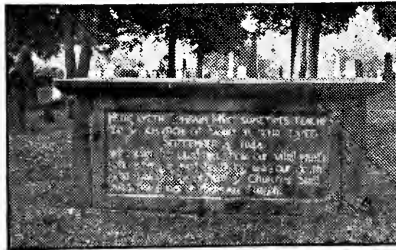
There are three accounts only which are left us by men then living and thoroughly conversant with the events which they record. First, Gov. Winthrop, in his account of the Council at Dorchester, April 1st, for the formation of a new church, says: "A large part of the old Church had gone to

Connecticut"; and second, the author of the *Life of Richard Mather*, of whom Increase Mather, his son, says in the preface, "He hath had the reviewing of my father's manuscripts, from whence, as well as from personal and intimate acquaintance, he hath been truly furnished with the knowledge of what is here reported"; writing, too, when all the older members of both churches were still living, says that Mr. Mather while in Boston received invitations from Plymouth, Dorchester, and Roxbury, "to employ the talent which the Lord had enriched him with for the work of the ministry among them." Being uncertain as to his duty he advised with friends, among whom Messrs. Cotton and Hooker were chief, and on their advice "set upon that great work," as the writer expresses it, "of gathering a Church in Dorchester, the Church which was first planted in that place being removed with Rev. Mr. Warham to Connecticut." Then, thirdly, we have the records of Matthew Grant, one of the first members of this Church, who, about 1667, sets down a list of twenty-four persons whom he describes as "members of the Church that were so in Dorchester, and came up here with Mr. Warham and are still of us"; after which he gives a list of those who, as he says, "have been taken into full communion since we came here." Then again, under date of December 31, 1677, he gives another list of fifteen names under the following heading: "Only yet living that came from Dorchester in full communion." This latter list was made out forty-two years, and the earlier perhaps about thirty-two, after the removal of the Church. The scribe says expressly that he does not mention any who have died or have gone from us to other places. And according to the lowest estimate it would seem probable that the number of those who came from Dorchester with Mr. Warham must have been five times that of the first list, or seven times that of the last. (That is, not those who came in his immediate company alone, but who in the course of a few years joined him here, having been members of his Church previous to coming.) This would give us, as a minimum, more than one hundred person. Though Gov. Winthrop doubtless spoke accurately in April, 1636, when he said the larger part of the Church had removed, others came later as we know, so that only a remnant

of the original body could have been left behind. Neither Matthew Grant, who was here as early as September, 1635, nor anybody else intimates anything of a reorganization of the Church in Windsor; but, on the contrary, Mr. Grant almost fully asserts the opposite fact. The original records, now lost, were doubtless brought here by Mr. Warham, for Mr. Grant says in the opening of his minutes, "The Elders of the Church have a record of Church proceedings in some things as they had"; and new church records were begun in Dorchester with the formation of the new church, and are still preserved entire. Some few members of the old church as we know were left behind. Mr. Roger Clap was one. And of the seven members who formed the foundation or pillars of the new Church, three are known to have been in Dorchester a year or two before the removal; whether members of the Church there we cannot tell.

Mr. Huit was settled as teacher in the Church in 1639, and the quaint epitaph on his tombstone in our old burying ground tells about all that need be said of him. Though but five years with the Church they declare his virtues thus:

"Who when hee lived wee drew our vitall breath  
 Who when hee dyed his dying was our death  
 Who was ye stay of state, ye churches staff  
 Alas the times forbids an epitaph."



THE GRAVE OF THE REV. EPHRAIM HUIT

He was the last settled in this Church distinctively as teacher and not also pastor.

Of Mr. Nathaniel Chauncey, who was Mr. Warham's successor, and for a few years his colleague, special mention must be made, however, on account of the division in the Church which his settlement occasioned. He was fourth son of Rev.

Charles Chauncey, second President of Harvard College. He was highly recommended, by such men as Rev. John Wilson of Boston and Richard Mather of Dorchester, for his "learning, studious diligence, hopeful piety, and grace, and peaceable demeanor." Nevertheless, for reasons not wholly known to us, there was great opposition to his settlement. The General Court had to interfere, and, on the 14th of October, 1667, in obedience to its order, the people of Windsor voted on the question. And Mr. Henry Wolcott returned eighty-six votes for Mr. Chauncey and fifty-two against him. This seems to have secured his settlement, but the dissatisfied minority soon after obtained permission of the Court to procure for themselves an able orthodox minister and have worship by themselves, which they did later, under the ministry of Mr. Woodbridge. Though the decree of Court says, "This Court leaves the Church at liberty for settling Mr. Chauncey and calling him to office," some have doubted if it was ever done, yet the probability is that he was regularly set over the Church as pastor. The explanation of this division is not fully known. Since the Synod of 1662, which endorsed and authorized the half-way Covenant system, proposed at first in 1657, there seems to have been a great division in the churches.\* One party here was called the Presbyterian party. Dr. Parker of Hartford, in his discourse at the two-hundredth anniversary of the South Church, says, "within a month from the time when the second Church in Hartford was formed, the party in the Church at Windsor that dissented from the strict Congregationalism of old Mr. Warham withdrew, and Mr. Woodbridge was ordained as minister of the *Presbyterian* party of Windsor." It is known that the Presbyterians of England had exerted themselves to induce the Council at Boston, in 1648, to frame the platform of the New England churches in accordance with their ideas,—and doubtless many within the colony were then favorable to the polity of that Church which under Cromwell had been made for a time the established Church of England. But the disagreement was not all between these

\*This was a time of disturbance in many of the churches throughout the colonies. Not only in Hartford, but in Boston, also, there was a secession of a portion of the old church, and a new one formed, which is now known as the *Old South*.

two factions of the church. There could not have been perfect peace in the main body if it be true, as reported, that "When a sermon was preached in the pulpit in the forenoon concerning doctrines to which Mr. C. was opposed, he would in the afternoon preach to the same audience, from the same text, a regular logical confutation of these doctrines." It was evidently a time of great trouble and disturbance in the Church, and it is not very strange that Mr. Chauncey remained only a little more than twelve years. He is the only pastor, however, in the first two centuries of the Church who did not remain and die among the people of his charge. Another fact is worthy of mention here. For two years and twelve weeks, before February, 1669, while matters were unsettled, and the minority of the Church, though worshipping apart, had not yet obtained leave to form a separate Church, and the General Court had the matter in hand with intent to heal the division, Matthew Grant records that the Church held no communion service. An interesting question concerning the mode of administering the communion is suggested by the account of Dea. More with the Church about this time. The charge for wine used at a single sacrament, August 14, 1670, is 18<sup>s.</sup>,—and the average cost for the next six is about 14<sup>s.</sup>, and the price per gallon is set down in one instance as 4<sup>s.</sup>, which would allow about four gallons to one communion. But the membership at that time according to the records could not have been more than sixty or seventy,—and this would have allowed a small glass of wine to each person. In the same way it can be shown that the bread eaten would have been sufficient to give to each person more than two ounces apiece. From this it would seem that they must have made more of a supper of this sacrament than we now do.

The division in the Church at this time was great and grievous and was by no means healed when, in 1679, Mr. Chauncey left the church to accept an invitation to Hatfield, Mass. The Court and Councils tried in vain to restore harmony, until at last, worn out with wrangling, the town voted unanimously, in 1681, to call Mr. Saml. Mather, who was grandson to Richard Mather of Dorchester, and cousin to Cotton Mather. And at length, in 1684, he was settled and peace restored.

It was during his ministry that the first permanent division of the society was effected. At his settlement the parish included what is now Windsor, with Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, Suffield, East and South Windsor, and a portion of Ellington. The new meeting-house which was at once built, after the two parties united, stood out here on the green. And that was the one place of worship in all this region; The Temple at Jerusalem whither the tribes went up. But the settlement on the east side of the river, then called Windsor Farms, had so increased that by 1694 they obtained leave of the Court to sustain a minister among them, and Timothy Edwards, the father of Jonathan, came with his wife November 14, 1694. Later a meeting-house was built, but as yet there was no Church and no territorial division of the town into separate parishes. Each man paid his rate where he chose. But in May, 1696, the Court record reads, "Upon motion of divers of the inhabitants of Windsor living on the east side of the river, this Court granted to said inhabitants free liberty in an orderly way, with the consent of neighbor Churches to involve themselves into Church estate, and to proceed to the ordination of their minister, having first obtained the free consent of the Church of Windsor." But this would involve the division of the parish; and that was a new thing. This was one of the earliest instances in the Colony when one town was thus divided territorially into two parishes. And it is probable that "the free consent of the Church in Windsor" was not so easily obtained, for although a vote was passed in that society May 3, 1697, that Mr. Edwards should be called to office, as soon as conveniently may be, Mr. Stoughton makes charge in his account book, May 28, 1698, for Provisions laid in the house of Mr. Edwards for his ordination. The list includes rum and wine, with butter, cheese, eggs, and wheat-meal.\* And so it seems that the real division of Church and Parish did not take place until the year 1698, the same year that the Suffield Church was formed. Before this date many of the persons received to membership here by Mr. Mather are recorded as "of Suffield."

\*Some of these facts were kindly furnished by Mr. John A. Stoughton, who has of late come into possession of a lot of Edwards' manuscript.



During the ministry of Mr. Marsh the Church and Parish suffered further diminuation by the separation of Poquonock and establishment of an independent Church and Society in 1724, and a similar secession of Bloomfield in 1736. Each of those cleavages, as that of Windsor Locks in 1844, was natural and necessary, from the growth of population around new centers, but each was resisted as long as possible by the mother Church, as it is natural for any mother to delay as long as possible the separation of her family, and the departure of her daughters to found new homes elsewhere. The chief event which made memorable the next ministry, that of Rev. Wm. Russell, was the struggle between the two extremes of the parish with regard to the location of the new meeting-house. As a result of the decision to build on the South side of the rivulet, the opposing party, by consent of the Court, separated themselves from the Church and built them a house about two miles north of the other, and for thirty-three years worshipped by themselves, with Rev. Theo. Hinsdale for their Pastor. This division, as also the earlier one in 1667, would doubtless have been permanent, as was that between the 1st and 2d Churches in Hartford, if the population of Windsor had increased as in Hartford, so as to warrant its continuance. In the midst of this period of division the war of the Revolution was fought. Until then we had owned as our Sovereigns the successive Kings of England, and lived under protection of the British flag. But this division in the territory of England by which we became an independent government, has proved a more permanent one than the contemporaneous division in our old Church. For, shortly after the establishment of peace, a reunion was brought about and the body has ever since remained without open schism. The Pastorates of the two Rowlands, father and son, both of whom were men worthy of extended mention and praise had we time to devote to it, extended seven years beyond the close of the second century of our history. Up to this time the Church had had but seven Pastors, besides the two Teachers who labored with Mr. Warham. The average length of a pastorate up to this point had been about thirty-one years.

In the last fifty years, less seven, there have been five pastors, making twelve in all for the 250 years, though by

the overlapping of some pastorates it makes more than 250 years of service. One of these was for a single year, yet the average length of pastorate from the first is about twenty-one years.

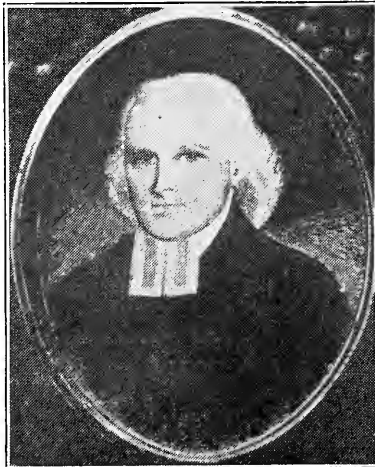
### The Rowland Family

(Added in 1935 by Daniel Howard)

The Rev. David Sherman Rowland whose previous pastorate was in Providence, R. I., was the pastor of the First Church of Windsor during the trying days of the Revolutionary War and reference to his settlement in the pastorate may be found in connection with our story of the great struggle. A graduate of Yale in the class of 1743 and the recipient of a master's degree from Dartmouth he maintained the tradition of the church for scholarly and cultured leadership.

In 1790 his son, the Rev. Henry Augustus Rowland, a graduate of Dartmouth, became his colleague, and upon his death, January 13, 1794, the son was continued as pastor and served until 1835.

His son, Henry Augustus, Jr., a graduate of Yale, became more widely known than either of the Windsor pastors; but his



THE REV. DAVID SHERMAN ROWLAND

Son of Henry and Tamar Rowland. Yale 1743. Married Mary Spalding.  
Pastor of the First Church of Windsor, 1776-1794

work was done for the most part in other states, including pastorates at Fayetteville, North Carolina, New York City, and Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

It is interesting to note in connection with the references to Yale College already made that in 1820 according to a record of the family there were six Rowlands in that college.

A great-grandson of the first of the family to come to the Windsor Church, Mr. George Rowland, was offered an opportunity to go to college but the exciting years preceding the Civil War led his thoughts in other directions and he entered the military service at the age of fifteen and did guard duty for a while and later enlisted in the army in a group known as "squirrel hunters" because most of them came from the rural sections of Ohio clothed and equipped more as hunters than as soldiers.

After the war Mr. Rowland was for a time an assistant in the treasury department at Washington and later was an insurance man and a banker and broker in New York city. His banking experience led to the organization of a stock company to build a railroad in Mexico and his years spent in carrying out that enterprise provided thrilling experiences that he loves to relate to his many friends of the present generation.

### The Celebration in 1905

In the year 1905 the First Church celebrated its two hundred seventy-fifth anniversary. The two following addresses were given on that occasion.

#### ADDRESS BY REV. CHARLES A. JAQUITH

Tonight, we of the Windsor Farms, have crossed the Great River that we may attend the services of this church as was the custom so many years ago. Gladly do we come, bringing most cordial greetings from a daughter church. When a church is so old, so unsurpassingly old, as is this Congregational Church of Windsor, it rightly feels the responsibility of holding up before this much tempted generation the piety and heroism of an earlier age.

Those who with unwearied tongue magnify the greatness of the *Mayflower* and her one hundred passengers, must this

week hold their peace, while we set forth the claims of the *Mary and John* and her one hundred and forty passengers. Not all the early heroes landed at Plymouth, nor even Salem and Boston; some landed at Nantasket and were glad to remove from Dorchester a few years later to settle in the beautiful and fertile Connecticut valley at Windsor. This company was carefully selected in England with the thought of being ready for any and all the requirements of the American wilderness. Two clergymen of acknowledged ability, Warham and Maverick, were to convert the Indians, if they were docile, but if not, John Mason, who had fought with distinction in the Netherlands, was to use such force as was necessary. The Psalm book and the "big stick" were both on board the *Mary and John*. A lawyer, also, business men and farmers of ample means accompanied the expedition. "They were a very godly and religious people" as the old record says, "and many of them, persons of figure and note, being dignified with the title of *Mr.*, which few in those days were." The whole company rose to a certain greatness of soul, because following a high ideal. Their work was crowned with true success, "for what is worth Success' name, unless it be the thought, the inward surety, to have carried out a noble purpose, to a noble end?"

It is not my task to speak of the unremembered; but to notice a few of the greater names in your history, as we recall the words of Carlyle: "We cannot look, however imperfectly, upon a great man, without gaining something by him. He is the living light—fountain which it is good and pleasant to be near."

One name stands out conspicuously in the military history of New England. Captain John Mason was perhaps the most renowned military leader of his day. The Indians in 1636-7 kept the Connecticut towns in constant alarm, and after the massacre at Wethersfield, the General Court called out forty-two men from Hartford, thirty from Windsor and eighteen from Wethersfield, to proceed against the Pequot Indians. Captain Mason had, however, but seventy-seven men when he surprised the seven hundred Pequots in their entrenched fort. With fire and fire-arms he carried out David Harum's new version of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as they would

do to you and do it first." The result was the Pequots were annihilated and the Connecticut colonies enjoyed comparative peace from the Indians forever after. Prompt, vigorous, and brave, John Mason put Connecticut under lasting indebtedness to him.

From a legal standpoint, too, Windsor's contribution was a large one, both to state and nation. Among the original settlers was Roger Ludlow, who had been bred to the law in England and was a deputy-governor in Massachusetts, before leaving Dorchester. When the freemen of the three towns of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield met in Hartford, January 14, 1639, a constitution was adopted which John Fiske says was "the first written constitution known to history that created a government." This famous constitution according to Stiles was drawn up by Roger Ludlow, although the most powerful democratic influence in the settlements was Thomas Hooker. Ludlow has also been credited with being the author of the first school law in Connecticut, wherein is prescribed: "That the selectmen of every town shall have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbors to see first that none of them shall suffer so much barbarism in their families as not to endeavor to teach, by themselves or others, their children and apprentices as may enable them perfectly to read the English tongue." It had prescribed that any town of one hundred families should set up schools able to fit for the university.

The greatest name in Windsor's history—her greatest contribution to the nation—is unquestionably Oliver Ellsworth. Most highly commendable it is that his home in Windsor should be so well preserved, that it may speak to coming generations, not only of the time long past, but of the man who rendered so great service to our country in its early and formative period. During the closing years of the Revolution from 1778-83, when the personnel of the Continental Congress had seriously declined in ability and patriotism, he was one of the most loyal and useful members and gave the army support where it was sorely needed. In the Constitutional Convention of 1787 his part was by no means a small one. Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, in an address on Ellsworth at the Yale Law School in 1902, shows conclusively that assisted by Roger Sherman, also of

Connecticut, he was chiefly responsible for the great compromise between the large and small states, whereby the Convention was saved from failure and the present Constitution proposed. That a Senate composed of an equal number of members from each state, elected by the Legislatures, was added to a House of Representatives, chosen by popular vote, was due chiefly to the wisdom and practical sagacity of Oliver Ellsworth. To his everlasting honor be it said, he performed a most important service at one of the most critical moments in all the history of our country. As a senator under the Constitution from 1789-94, his influence was so great that Aaron Burr said that "if he should chance to spell the name of the Deity with two d's, it would take the Senate three weeks to expunge the superfluous letter." John Adams affirmed that he was "one of the pillars of Washington's administration." His greatest service as Senator was the drafting of the Act upon which the judicial system of the United States has rested ever since. From 1796-1800 he held the highest judicial position in the land, Chief Justice of the United States. An important work in the negotiation of a treaty with France, in 1800, whereby a most threatening discord was brought to a close, was the last of his services to the nation. After some further service in the counsels of Connecticut, he died here in Windsor, November 27, 1807. His identification with this church is shown by the fact that he was on the building committee in 1794 when the present structure was erected.

"Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free,  
So didst thou travel on life's common way  
In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart  
The lowliest duties on herself did lay."

One of his sons, Wm. Wolcott Ellsworth, governor 1834-42, declined election to the Senate and later was Judge of the Supreme Court.

Such a contribution to our legal and political history reflects enduring honor upon this town and church.

Time is lacking for any extended characterization of Henry Wolcott and his illustrious descendants. "One of the most influential leaders of the Connecticut colony" himself, "there was hardly a time for the next two centuries when a

Wolcott was not in some post of trust and honor in the service of the commonwealth." A grandson named Roger Wolcott was governor, 1751-4; but he lived in what is now South Windsor. Another descendant, Oliver Wolcott, who moved to Litchfield, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor, 1796-7. His son was Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of Connecticut ten years. Even in our own day, the family has produced a Senator in Colorado, Edward Oliver Wolcott, and a governor in Massachusetts, Roger Wolcott. All honor, then, to Henry Wolcott, the sire of such a race!

We cannot omit to mention the clergy, "those bold, vigorous, intolerant, able men that set their mark so indelibly upon the early institutions of New England." John Warham, the first pastor, was worthy of that first generation of ministers. They were men who were scholarly and idealistic enough to accumulate libraries equal in value to three or four year's salary; yet vigorous and practical enough to mold the character and institutions of their parishioners. Warham was so humble as to refuse at times to partake of the Lord's Supper which he administered, but was by no means timid or ineffectual when he preached the Word. Rev. Samuel Mather, pastor of the church, 1684-1728, deserves mention for his conspicuous ability, as well as for his service in harmonizing the church and adding largely to its numbers. The great Jonathan Edwards, whom South Windsor is proud to claim, was descended on his mother's side from the first pastor of this church, so you also share in his fame and indeed you have some claim upon all the great men whom the daughter churches have produced.

Doubtless other names are deserving of mention at my hand; but surely those of whom I have spoken are the choice fruits you hold up before us as your contribution to the world. Even the names of such men quicken our pulses and thrill us with the thought of achievement and service. Great things were accomplished by those men of old. They were the men who dug the channels wherein has flowed the stream of New England history. It is due to them that we feel today strongly as we do the moral currents of life. The preachers expounded the greatest Book of all and proclaimed, "This is the way, walk

ye in it"; and so it came about that life amid the hardships and simplicities of early Connecticut was dignified by a devotion to principle and a loyalty to the future, which amidst the highest opportunities and luxuries of today cannot be relegated to a second place. In the succession of noble patriots you have sent out, is verified Lowell's saying:—

"Freedom is re-created year by year,  
In hearts wide open on the God-ward side."

We may smile if we wish at the long sermons and the long prayers of those days, their scrupulous observance of the Sabbath and the strictness of parental discipline, but there were produced men not only great in intellect, but earnest in purpose, pure in motive, and noble in character; and we have yet to prove that we can produce the same results with less of self-denial and religious training.

ADDRESS BY REV. GEORGE L. CLARK

It is my privilege to speak, not for your notable heroes, your Warhams, Ellsworths and Wolcotts, but for that larger and no less important company of quiet, modest, gentle, resolute, faithful people, who have done most of the work, encountered perils hand to hand and fought the battles through in your fine history, and unsung, but not unwept, dropped into humble graves. Mr. Lincoln said that God, must think a good deal of common people, he made so many of them. I count it a joy to speak, though unworthily, of these whose obscurity and silence are more eloquent than words, whose deeds have been wrought into the substance of our history and our faith, "who did great things, unconscious they were great."

How seldom we think of the thousands who make up the rank and file of the army, who stand on guard while officers sleep, who marched long, weary and footsore, who handled flintlock and Winchester with an accuracy gained among corn-fields and forests. Few reached the chair of professor, judge, or legislature, but these men knew how to milk a cow, swing an ax or scythe, wield rake or hoe, raise corn, rye, oats and beans, and how to face death with unflinching courage. They were the bone and sinew of the land and when Boston was beleagured, the valley of the Connecticut sent its treasures



of grain to suffering fellow patriots with a ringing word of courage, and when the call came for soldiers the farmers did not hesitate.

Only a few men stand out in clear and brilliant outline on history's page; it was the many lowly and persistent souls that cut down trees, made roads, held the ploughs, cast votes, built the home, church and schoolhouse and in simple faith and unassuming ways laid the foundations of the Republic. Honor, ceaseless honor, to the self-denying, resolute faithful men, who in cold and heat, darkness and storm and pain, fought the good fight and finished their course. Without them the Shermans, the Hookers and the Putnams were a swift and fleeting dream. Honor, ceaseless honor, to the plain, straightforward common people, the unremembered men.

And what shall I say of the women? We read little of them in the histories, but since that day in the autumn of 1635, when agile Rachael Stiles pushed ahead of clumsy men, discussing precedence, and was the first of the bold settlers to reach the shore, planting her foot upon the soil of Windsor, women have had a large part in the struggle with the wolves, bears, Indians, hardships and disappointments of New England. When the brave men of Windsor shouldered their muskets or their rifles and went against the Dutch, Narragansetts, British and Rebels, who were more dauntless than the mothers, wives and sisters, who with sad hearts, yet brave faces, spun the yarn, wove the cloth and made their butternut coat; filled the knapsack and with a kiss and a trembling, a thrilling word sent those men of nerve on their way of duty and death. It was harder, it required more patience and enduring fortitude to hold fast to faith and hope in the lonely home, through long, tiresome days and longer restless nights, than to go out on an expedition which demanded grit and heroism, but it was the lot of women to stay at home and send prayers to the God of Battles and messages of strength and courage to the brave defenders.

They did stay, they made bread, they washed dishes, made soap, tried out lard, salted beef, converted crab apples and golden pumpkins into glorious pies for the young patriots around the table. How steadily worked the old creaking loom;

how swiftly flew the spinning wheel! They milked the cows, fed the pigs, coaxed the pullets to lay, with one eye for wolf or Indian. When voices grew harsh who could make peace like a woman? Who quietly dealt with the delirium of stormy adolescence? Who drilled the catechism into the children and made Connecticut the birthplace of clockmakers and theologians? What a roll, the two Edwardses, Hopkins, Bellamy, Beecher, Bushnell and Seth Thomas. Those clear-sighted women found time to give a touch of beauty to the humble home; they trained the sweet honeysuckle about the door, they planted the brilliant hollyhock. Said an orator, "Who were last at the Cross and first at the tomb? Ladies." So in our history, first and last in loving service. Whose pleasant voices mingled with the rumble and roar of their brothers and lifted old Antioch to the rafters and with glancing eyes from their high post beckoned diffident youths toward Heaven? When the saints sat in zero meeting houses and swallowed frozen chunks of theology or patiently watched "ninthly" and "tenthly" pour forth from the lips of the parson in frosty outline, who helped the tithingman quiet restive children and awakened the husband who was freezing to death; whose flying fingers had knit the many socks and mittens and made the warm coats? Who fed the parson in his pastoral round and cheered his drooping spirits with a good square meal?

Then the sewing circle. The tongue of an angel were needed to sing its praise. Woman was the queen of that kingdom of work and recreation. It was newspaper, theater, lyceum, debating club, business enterprise, market place, all in one. It relieved the monotony of a hard grind, scattered the blues, promoted sociability and made matches. How could the church exist without it? When a carpet is needed for the meeting-house the modern Paul looks to Dorcas, the president of the Ladies' Aid. When hymn-books are required for the upper room or the parish expenses overlap the income the beloved Persis knows how to pry open the masculine pocketbook with a bean pod or an oyster shell. Glorious is chicken pie. Magnificent are baked beans. Magical is the pumpkin pie. Pleasant as heavenly manna are jelly and doughnuts. We have heard of a church built of onions. Many a chapel has

been decorated with scalloped oysters and pink tea. People must have recreation and before the gentle game of football arose there were huskings. But what were they without pretty girls? And what were a red ear without a pair of ruby lips to match it?

Good cheer, courage, faith and love spring up like flowers in the footsteps of the unremembered women. Rare is the life sublime, uninspired by a good woman. We celebrate the prayer meeting at the famous haystack, but who taught those college boys to pray? The invalid wife of Wendell Phillips would say to the silver tongued orator as he shrank from a severe encounter, "Wendell, don't shally." So the women in the homes of obscurity equipped their sons for occasions which demanded manhood, strength and courage. More precious than rubies in the story of this ancient and noble Church is the memory of the unremembered.

### **The Tercentenary of the First Church**

In 1930 when the First Church celebrated the fact that it was three hundred years old the Rev. Roscoe Nelson was pastor and the following historical excerpts are taken from his address which formed part of the tercentenary program.

An anniversary like this, instead of accentuating our separation from the motherland should on the contrary deepen our sense of fellowship and unity with the multitudes over there whose cause was, is, and ever will be one with ours.

Coming to our own pioneers it is most fitting, I think, to mention first of all the Governor of the Bay Colony, under whose jurisdiction they lived for five years in Massachusetts and continued in the same for the first year of their settlement here, until they formed a government of their own. In my judgment nothing is too good to say of John Winthrop the Governor. In these words he is described by Woodrow Wilson in his history of the American Commonwealth: "A man of gentle breeding, of education, of private means, and of the high principles of the best Puritan tradition, a man trained in the law and, what was much better, schooled in a firm but moderate temper, sweet yet commanding."

The pioneering did not cease when the landing was made. It simply took other directions. The natives, for one thing, offered a field for the pioneer. It has been said, with more wit than truth, that the Puritans fell first upon their knees and then upon the aborigines. Aside from the direful chapter of the Pequot War the Puritans of the first immigration fell upon the natives with the Bible as the weapon of their attack. To carry the Gospel to the Indians was a purpose much in the minds of Winthrop and his associates and that purpose was nobly carried out by the preaching of John Elliott and by his translation of the scriptures into the Indian language. The later record of the contacts of the whites with the natives affords small ground for boasting, but the intent of the first comers is wholly in accord with the noblest type of Christian character.

And take the matter of civil order, of Government. Was not that a field for the pioneer and for building on new foundations? You are aware of the distinguishing feature of the government set up in the Bay Colony and of the fun that has been made of it. It has been called a theocracy, by which we mean the rule of God. And how was the rule of God carried on? The ministers, of course, had much to do with it. They interpreted the scriptures as they related to the matters in hand, the Old Testament rather more than the New, and such interpretation found its way into the rules and orders for the regulation of common life. John Cotton, the engaging minister of the Boston church, was likely to be asked to preach at any crisis of affairs, and, as someone said, "Whatever he delivered in the pulpit was soon put into an order of the Court or set up as a practice in the Church." This was one way the theocracy operated.

Another way was by admitting only church members to the privilege of freemen. At first thought one might say this was the same principle as that in practice in England. There all the people were legally and technically members of the State Church. So over there no one could be a full citizen, of course, who was not a church member. But here only men who could give a very definite account of their religious experience could be members of the church. Thus the membership

was limited to the special type of religious people who were proved to be Godly by special rigid tests and only such could be admitted to the company of freemen and permitted to vote. Very much fun has been made of this early form of American democracy.

This idea and practice have long since found a place in the museum. It was not a scheme of government destined to last. But judged from the point of view of those who promoted it, it is not to be despised. In the intent of Winthrop and Cotton and such men it was not without its high and noble aspects. These men in their purpose were going forward with God, and how better could they do so in civil affairs as well as in the church than by the agency of Godly men, men who stood the test of godliness by standards which to us are rigid and artificial but to them exalted and biblical. The famous saying of Winthrop, "The best part is always the least, and of that best part the wiser part is always the lesser" is hard to disprove. Quite naturally Winthrop thought of this wiser and lesser part as consisting of those who met the standards of life and conduct set up by the church. John Cotton with his melting eloquence was in complete agreement with Winthrop. Democracy in his opinion "God never did ordain as a fit government either for church or commonwealth. If the people be governors, who shall be governed."

The ideas of both Winthrop and Cotton seem to us antiquated and queer. But we must remember that we are looking at them in the light of three centuries of what we think of as progress. While their ideas have suffered change we do well to hold the men themselves in lasting honor for their earnest and conscientious purpose to lay the foundation of life in both church and state not upon the shifting sands of human feeling but upon the truth of God.

To us the flaw in their system is quite visible. It may be very true that the "best part is always the least." But let the least part begin to think of itself as the best and as having a monopoly of wisdom and virtue, then look out for mischief or for new pioneers. The trouble with King Charles was that he looked in the glass and saw himself as endowed with God's

whole wisdom, and to him no part of God's wisdom for ruling belonged to Parliament or people. The early rulers in the Bay were unwittingly in danger of the same pit, only here the fitness and duty to rule were supposed to belong to the limited group of Church members rather than to a single person as in case of the King.

The ministers of the First Church have been:

|      |                     |      |
|------|---------------------|------|
| 1630 | John Warham         | 1670 |
| 1630 | John Maverick       | 1636 |
| 1639 | Ephriam Huit        | 1644 |
| 1667 | Nathaniel Chauncey  | 1680 |
| 1668 | Benjamin Woodbridge | 1681 |
| 1684 | Samuel Mather       | 1728 |
| 1709 | Jonathan Marsh      | 1747 |
| 1751 | William Russel      | 1775 |
| 1776 | Theodore Hinsdale   | 1795 |
| 1776 | David S. Rowland    | 1794 |
| 1790 | Henry A. Rowland    | 1835 |
| 1836 | Charles A. Walker   | 1837 |
| 1839 | Spofford D. Jewett  | 1843 |
| 1845 | Theodore A. Leete   | 1859 |
| 1861 | Benjamin Parsons    | 1865 |
| 1867 | Gowen C. Wilson     | 1892 |
| 1892 | Roscoe Nelson       | 1932 |
| 1932 | Theodore E. Frank   |      |



#### OLD GLORY FLIES ON WINDSOR GREEN

A scene during the World War. This picture was taken on Memorial Day, 1917, when the new flag presented by Everett and Isaac Hayden was raised with appropriate ceremonies. The steel pole was purchased with funds obtained by Walter S. Hastings and the Windsor Boy Scouts. Judge Ralph M. Grant was the orator of the day.

### Bicentennial Celebration of 1932

The year 1932 saw a nationwide celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The exercises conducted in Windsor were carried out under the direction of a special committee created for the occasion. Acting in response to a request from the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission that he designate a suitable chairman for Windsor's share in the observance of the occasion, Postmaster Erle Rogers asked Daniel Howard to accept the position and choose a committee to arrange a program. Mr. Howard accepted and appointed the following committee: Erle Rogers, William Hoyt, Mrs. Eleazer Pomeroy, Mrs. C. H. Barrett, W. Fred Hornsby, John H. Garvan, Calvin E. Wilcox, Milton A. Leonard, Irving Farrington, Mrs. George C. Dugdale, Mrs. Charles H. Willcox, Miss C. Louise Dickerman, Mrs. Bertha H. Rogers, John A. Benson, Harold J. Quinn, Christian H. Meier, Edward J. Kernan, Ralph A. Peters, Emil L. Pfunder.

The celebration began with the writing of prize essays in the public schools.

On January 29 a concert by the Windsor Band was given in the High School and four reels of motion pictures depicting the life of Washington were shown to an appreciative audience.

On May 14 Arbor Day and the Washington Bicentennial were celebrated in a joint program. An address by the chairman was followed by a program of music, readings, and costume dancing on a platform erected on the athletic field near the High School.

This was followed by the dedication of the Washington Memorial Park under the direction of Walter H. Tirrell assisted by the Gray-Dickinson Post of the American Legion, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts and the pupils of the public schools.

This park, which comprises several acres of land donated to the town by Mr. Eleazer Pomeroy, and a lake and surrounding land leased to the town by the Metropolitan District for a nominal sum, has become a center of delightful recreation for old and young.



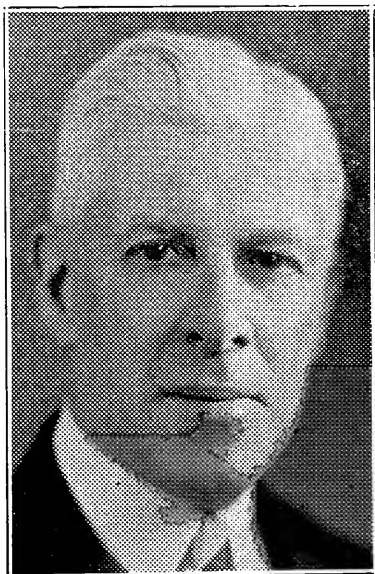
On June 8 Governor Wilbur L. Cross, who, with other high officials of the state, was participating in a pilgrimage over the historic route once followed by Washington, stopped in Windsor and greeted and addressed fifteen hundred pupils of the public schools, who had assembled to hear him on the Broad Street Green.

### Windsor's Tercentenary Celebration

In September, 1933, the celebration to which the town had looked forward ever since the organization of the Windsor Historical Society, which made this one of its primary objects, took place. An executive committee in charge of the celebration was appointed by the Selectmen and the Board of Finance of the town of Windsor, acting under authority conferred by a town meeting. An appropriation of about \$4500 was placed at the disposal of this committee which organized and invited Raymond W. Smith to act as their secretary. The following six men then comprised the committee:



DANIEL HOWARD, *Chairman*



RAYMOND W. SMITH, *Secretary*



JOHN E. LUDDY



WILLIAM F. HORNSBY



CLAYTON P. CHAMBERLIN

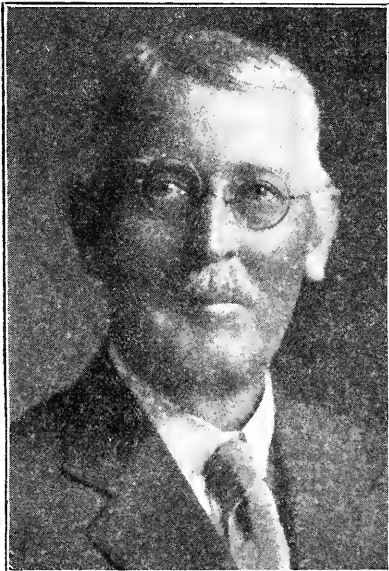


WALTER S. HASTINGS

The following Selectmen gave their encouragement and support to the work of the committee:



STANTON F. BROWN, *Chairman*



ELEAZER POMEROY



CHARLES B. SEARLE

Selectmen of Windsor during the Tercentenary Year

The following excerpts from the official catalog and the report of the celebration tell the main incidents of what took place.

#### WHAT DO WE CELEBRATE?

We celebrate on this occasion the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Ancient Windsor, the first English settlement in the state of Connecticut. The first settlers came from Plymouth, Mass. They had been invited by the Matianuck Indians who then inhabited that part of the Connecticut valley which extends north from the present Hartford line to and beyond the present Windsor Center. These settlers came prepared to make a permanent settlement and hoping to profit by trade with friendly Indians. The framework of their first house, which they brought by sailing vessel from Plymouth, reached its destination at Matianuck, now Windsor, on September 26, 1633. That is our birthday.

But we have other reasons for holding a celebration besides the fact that we are three hundred years old. In 1635-1636 other and larger bands of settlers arrived from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They found that the Plymouth people had purchased three vast tracts of land lying on both sides of the Connecticut River and had made preparations to expand their little settlement. Within a few years these Massachusetts Bay settlers had purchased these vast tracts from the Plymouth settlers and repurchased them from the Indians to secure a continuance of their friendship. We celebrate the accomplishments of these men and women, lovers and friends of freedom and democracy, which they did more to establish and foster in this new world than any other equal number of settlers.

From the beginning Windsor has been prominent in this great movement. She furnished the first president of the first General Court organized to govern the general affairs of the three infant settlements that made the Colony of Connecticut. These settlements were Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford, and the presiding officer and virtual governor was Roger Ludlow. The first military commander called upon to lead the little army of the infant colony against savage foes who sought to destroy it was Captain John Mason of Windsor. The first

written constitution ever drawn up by a free people for their own government was drafted by Roger Ludlow of Windsor and it has become the model for the republics of the world. Windsor produced Oliver Ellsworth, one of the five authors of the Constitution of the United States, the author of the bill creating the judiciary system of the United States, United States Senator from Connecticut, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Minister to France. The ancient town produced John M. Niles, founder of the Hartford Times, leader of the reform party in the Connecticut Revolution of 1818, United States Senator, and Postmaster General of the United States. Windsor is proud of Edward Rowland Sill, the poet; Horace H. Hayden, the father of dentistry; John Fitch, inventor of the steamboat; Christopher M. Spencer, inventor of repeating rifles; and Arthur H. Eddy, renowned for his inventive contributions in the fields of electric motors and generators.

In war and peace, in arts and science, in agriculture and industries, Windsor has been a pioneer. Beginning her illustrious history first, she is the first town among the towns of Connecticut to celebrate her tercentenary anniversary and she welcomes to all the festivities, functions, and services of the four days, September 23 to September 26 inclusive, all her sons and daughters, native or adopted, all their friends and relatives from near and far, and all who love the principles of self government, freedom, justice, education, and morality, that have made her history a record of honor and renown.

### **Tercentenary Ball**

Saturday, September 23, 1933, 8 o'clock P. M., in the John Fitch High School, planned and sponsored by the following committee from the Three Hundred Club of Windsor.

W. Fred Hornsby, Chairman; Associates, Walter S. Hastings, Raymond W. Smith, Russell H. Pellington, Reuben D. Warner, Earle E. Edwards, Robert H. Morse, Paul J. Anderson, John A. Benson, B. Gary Merrill, Arthur F. Brooks, Frederick E. Anderson, Robert W. Clark, Donald R. Griswold, Charles F. Taylor.

Program carried out by the Drama Study Club under the direction of the following committees: Mrs. Richard A. Cairns, Chairman; Associates, Mrs. Kenneth E. Dike, Mrs. Harry P. Cox, Jr., Kenneth Barber, Harry Wessels, A. W. Olds, and William W. Prout; Scenery, Kenneth E. Dike, designer of the setting; Construction, Richard A. Cairns; Lighting, Burton E. Moore, Jr.; Costumes, Miss Helena H. Dorph and Mrs. Merton F. Dickinson; Make-up, Mrs. Doris Campbell Holsworth; Director of Dances, Mrs. Burton E. Moore, Jr.; Dramatization by Mrs. Richard A. Cairns.

**Sunday Service, September 24, 8 o'clock P. M.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE: Adagio from Sonata II *Beethoven*

THE WINFIELD TRIO

VESPER HYMN *The Choir*

HYMN: (the congregation standing)

O God, beneath Thy guiding hand  
Our exiled fathers crossed the sea;  
And when they trod the wintry strand  
With pray'r and praise they worshipped Thee.

Thou heard'st, well pleased, the song, the pray'r;  
Thy blessing came, and still its pow'r  
Shall onward through all ages bear  
The mem'ry of that holy hour.

And here Thy name, O God of love,  
Their children's children shall adore,  
Till these eternal hills remove,  
And spring adorns the earth no more.

Leonard Bacon.

PRAYER: with choral Amen *REV. JOHN F. QUINN*

SCRIPTURE READING *REV. VICTOR L. GREENWOOD*

RESPONSIVE READING

ANTHEM: Festival Te Deum in E Flat *Dudley Buck*

ADDRESS *REV. ROSCOE NELSON*

Our Common Inheritance from the Faith of the Fathers.

## TERCENTENARY HYMN: (congregation standing)

Spreading o'er hills and plains  
 Following the river's shore,  
 Home of our fathers, old Windsor lies.  
 Three hundred years have passed;  
 We hold their mem'ry fast.  
 Their work was good, their counsels wise.

Freedom to worship God;  
 Freedom in government;  
 On these foundations which they laid down  
 Their sons have builded well.  
 Their grandsons love to tell  
 The story of the Ancient Town.

Courage and faith were theirs.  
 Courage and faith be ours  
 In years to come, as in years gone by.  
 Justice and liberty  
 Peace and serenity  
 We ask of Thee, O Lord Most High.

C. Louise Dickerman.

## BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE REV. HOWARD F. DUNN

Holy God, we praise Thy name!  
 Lord of all, we bow before Thee;  
 All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
 All in heav'n above adore Thee;  
 Infinite Thy vast domain,  
 Everlasting is Thy name.

Hark! the loud celestial hymn  
 Angel choirs above are singing!  
 Cherubim and Seraphim  
 In unceasing chorus praising;  
 Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
 Holy! Holy! Holy Lord.

Amen.

## RECESSIONAL

*Wollenhaupt*

Presiding, Daniel Howard  
 President of the Windsor Historical Society

The Choir  
 The United Choirs of the Churches of Windsor  
 Choir Director, C. Louise Dickerman

The Winfield Trio  
 Stanley Peteroski, Violin      Edward Mann, Violoncello  
 Thomas McManus, Piano

**Monday, September 25**

All the public schools of the town welcome visitors. Special programs appropriate to the Tercentenary Celebration have been arranged for two o'clock.

Roger Wolcott School—A play portraying the life of Roger Wolcott. Music by the school orchestra. Exhibit of school work.

Deerfield School—Episode from Windsor's Early History. Singing. Exhibit of school work.

Stony School—Historic Reminders.

The John Fitch High School—A Pageant, "Three Centuries of Progress" written by Martha Alice Downs of the English Department.

H. Sidney Hayden—Play, "The Transplanting," showing the establishment of Windsor. Hymns from the early days.

Roger Ludlow School—Tableaux in upper grades. Project in lower grades, based on Windsor history.

Bell School—Collection of antiques and exhibition of school work.

Hayden Station School—Project work featuring early Windsor.

Thrall School—Project work featuring early Windsor.

Elm Grove School—Exhibition of school work.

John M. Niles School—Episode from Windsor history. Music in the upper grades. Exhibition of school work.

Rainbow School—Historical Music and Recitations.

Griffin School—Historical Music and Recitations.

Hazelwood School—Historical Music and Recitations.

**Tuesday, September 26**

A parade took place in which 50 floats were exhibited and many civic and military organizations participated. The parade was reviewed, from a stand erected on Broad Street Green, by Governor Wilbur L. Cross and his staff and about three hundred invited guests.

A program of speaking and music followed at the grounds of the John Fitch High School.



We reproduce the speeches of the occasion, giving first the address delivered at the Sunday Union Service by the Rev. Roscoe Nelson, then the speeches delivered at the athletic field.

### The Union Service

The service was well attended. Eight clergymen sat together on the platform and with their united choirs carried out in a most impressive manner the program as planned. The Rev. Roscoe Nelson was the Speaker of the evening. His address follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

“Adventures in Ideas” is the title of a recent book by one of the noted thinkers of the day. The keynote of this book is struck by this sentence: “Without adventure civilization is in full decay.”

If adventure is the measure of the health and soundness of a civilization, then the period of our early settlers was in no peril of decay. Were I to venture a judgment of my own, I would say there were symptoms of decay in the European civilization of the time, but its vigor was renewed by the adventurous spirits who came upon the scene, some of whom strove for the new world at home, and others crossed the sea to make a new world for themselves and us in the vast area of the American Continent. Adventurers, indeed, were those who came hither both in ideas and in deeds. Thought was matched by action in all their daring enterprise. It is the fashion in some quarters to make sport at the expense of the Puritan character, but I know of no one who would deny him the merit that attaches to adventure.

The story of his life here from this point of view, both at the beginning and during the hundred years following, has never been fully told—and probably never will be. I have been tempted in my address tonight to rehearse some episodes of adventure in action with which our early history abounds. But on further consideration it seemed to be more fitting for this occasion to center our thoughts more especially upon what has been called “adventures in ideas,” those principles and

beliefs which were central in their minds, and which were conceived to be of basic importance in the life of a people. It is in this field, is it not, that we are to look for the treasure that they have bequeathed to us, and for which, in particular, we pay them our grateful honor.

I have therefore set as the subject of my address: "Our Common Inheritance from the Faith of the Fathers." Is not that what you most desire to think about this evening? Of something like that it seemed to me most fitting to speak at this community service. I use the phrase "Our *Common Inheritance*" because we all share what the people who settled here and their successors have bequeathed to us, at least in this aspect of it, to whatever special group we now belong. The adventure in ideas is something impossible to confine to any one group or organization. It is the property of the entire community within our borders, and in fact of large areas beyond. So may I say at the outset that the Inheritance from the Fathers that I shall especially speak of is a common legacy in which we all have our portion. Such is my conviction, and, craving your indulgence, of that I shall endeavor to speak.

We are meeting on the day that the early fathers called the Sabbath. I am sure that you agree with the Committee having the anniversary in charge that no celebration of this sort could at all be true to the history that we recall without such observance of it as has taken place in the churches this morning and some such community meeting on the Lord's Day as we are now engaged in. Incidentally I might say that such fragments of the old-time Sabbath as we still have are an item in our inheritance, a greater legacy than many of us are aware of at the present time. The "Week End" that has pushed the Sabbath into a corner is not an inheritance from the pioneer days. In early Windsor, Sunday was both a Sabbath and a "Week's Beginning." Its design included both rest from the toil of the week past and direction and guidance for the week to come. Strange as it may seem to us these forebears whom we honor at this anniversary found in the lengthy sermons of Sunday, something to sustain them amid the perils and toil of the following days, though I little doubt that many of us would find what hardships the week might bring easy to endure

in comparison with the strain of the two sermons of as many hours on the Lord's Day. The bravest of us would hardly dare to set up an imitation of Sunday in Windsor two or three centuries ago, even if it were possible to do so. Though Sunday was probably not so dreary as many of the stories that have come down to us would lead one to believe. Human nature even under stringent laws and regulations will find some outlet for its lighter moods. Boys and girls would be something either more or less than human if they did not find some corner for a bit of gayety and laughter even in the Puritan Sunday. In this day when one must take to the woods to find a quiet Sunday, and when the voice of gayety and laughter is drowned in the din of traffic and the too frequent collisions on the highways, may we not well concern ourselves to salvage at least some *human and Christian remnant* of a Sunday dedicated to rest, to *worship*, and to a search for the soul—the soul so easily lost in the hot pursuit of things?

You see how naturally the fact of our meeting on Sunday led me to say so much on this aspect of our inheritance, shall I say, our rejected inheritance from our past. Indeed the Sabbath and the meeting-house were so much the center of gravity here for the first two centuries of our history that no picture can be true to life that does not take account of them. As late an author as James Russell Lowell wrote that "New England was all meeting-house when I was growing up."

That meeting-house here, for nearly two centuries, was a Congregational meeting-house, as it was likely to be in most other New England towns. In that meeting-house what dramas were enacted! Some things enacted there, though not so intended, strike us as farces. Incidents connected with building the meeting-house, determining its location, very solemn at the time, are rather funny in retrospect. The actual distance from every home to the two disputed locations, one south and one north of the little river were measured, to settle one such matter here, and quite logically the stake was driven at the point which required the less wear on the shoes of the worshippers. This was a more successful method than what was employed in Hadley, Massachusetts, where a meeting-house was projected in 1750; it took thirteen years and some

fifty town meetings to settle the location, which in fact was at last determined by drawing lots.

What scenes within the meeting-house the kodak would have shown us, and what would we not give for a "talky", to reproduce Deacon Marshall as he lined out the hymn in the old way, and Mr. Beal who, much to the discomfort of the Deacon, taught the new way of singing by rule! How we would like to hear the tones and sentences of Mr. Warham, on the occasion, for example, when the bans of Abraham Randall and Benedict Alvord and their respective sweethearts were published! The few words that have been recovered from Mr. Warham's sermon on that occasion indicate that he gave advice both earnest and appropriate. "Put on the whole armor of God," was his text, and he improved it to say to the young couples that "Marriage is a warfaring condition, and those entering upon it need some further preparation than the consent of their parents." I might add, by way of parenthesis, to our young people, that Mr. Warham meant that marriage is a condition that calls for steadiness, faithfulness, and obedience to duty, somewhat after the manner of the soldier's life.

What incidents, solemn at the time and to the people concerned, much less so to us as we view them from the distance, we might picture! Scenes there were that move us to laughter, and others,—the austerities of life—the tithing man with his rod to subdue the boys to quiet in the house of God when there was nothing to engage their interest, the fines for absence from meeting, the pillory and the whipping post for offenses which we would ignore, or deal with in a different manner—these move us not to laughter, but to pity.

Severe and drab as many aspects of life were, however, we must not picture these ancestors as creatures of unlightened gloom. Quoting Dr. George Leon Walker, who knew the whole early period here as few have known it: "It has been fashionable to speak of Puritan times as joyless and hopeless, and of the lot of men, women and children then as only and altogether miserable. The assertion is utterly inaccurate—the newcomers to this forest continent had, indeed, hard things to encounter. The times nowhere in the Old World or the New were those of softness or ease. Severity in the treatment of

wrong doing was the universal rule of law; mercifulness and pity toward transgression of Divine or human statutes were nowhere found. The softer side of life had not anywhere come to be much taken into account.

But that the Puritans of New England were typically hard, austere, and unhappy people, is utterly to mistake their character, and to falsify their relative standing-place among men."

For those who think the return of beer something to make life more endurable in our day and to be without it a grievous hardship, I might quote a word from Roger Clap, who came over in the *Mary and John* with Mr. Warham and remained in Dorchester. Referring to the social and domestic habits in Massachusetts Bay, he is reported to have said that "it was not accounted a strange thing in those days to drink water!"

But it is not my purpose to dwell upon incidental happenings and detail of life in the olden time. It is rather to speak of certain basic things for which the Fathers stood, things of abiding significance, things worthy of our cherishing and from which we all stand to profit in this our own day.

Let me mention two or three of the articles of faith by which the early Fathers lived and which may still be ours by inheritance from them.

One of the first things we come upon is their idea, their *feeling*, I might say which amounted to a certainty that God was over them and with them in all their affairs, both private and public. I would not, of course, say that this was a new doctrine in the world. They would be the last to claim it as new. But it was new in the way they thought of it, and more particularly in the power it exerted in their lives. It was a ruling idea in their adventure.

There are some pictures which should hang in the mental gallery of our people, including the girls and boys, and be as familiar as their own mother's faces. One of them is the sailing of the *Mayflower*. The first Englishmen to come for settlement in Windsor were men,—and perhaps women, of the *Mayflower* connection. On this account we have a direct and local interest in that ship's company. The pastor of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims during their sojourn in Holland was John

Robinson. He did not come over with them, but his prayers for them and his wise counsel filled the sails of their ship. Among his words of counsel, which have been preserved for us is his famous saying about the further light and truth which they might expect from the Holy Scripture, by which he meant that the truth for men's lives is something that may be revealed as they need it. God, who had spoken to them through his unfolding of the word of Scripture, would go with them overseas, and they were to be as ready to follow His light over there as they had been in Leyden. Behold them then on the deck of their ship, listening to their pastor's prayer and his wise admonitions! That is one picture—and another along side of it might be that when the compact, beginning with the words "In ye name of God Amen," was drawn up and signed in the cabin of the ship.

Another picture of later date which has even more concern for us is that of the Mary and John. It is the 20th of March, 1630, and the Mary and John was ready in the harbor of Plymouth, Old England. You might touch up that picture with some tints from your own brush. Here were assembled one hundred forty persons, men, women, and children. You might add a scene from the homes from which they came, putting into the picture some of the neighbors and kinsfolks who came in to say good-bye. You might put into one corner the bundles of luggage which were packed and ready to take along on a voyage for which there were no return tickets. How many things your imagination might put in! But one thing needs no imagination. It is in the plain record. I refer to the preaching and the praying. Rev. John White, a clergyman of the Church of England, did some preaching in the forepart of the day. Mr. Warham, chosen that day as pastor of the flock, and Mr. Maverick, the teacher, took their turn at preaching in the latter part of the day. And as to the praying—like Jacob who wrestled with the angel, they would not let go until they were assured of the Lord's blessing for their voyage. Is not that a picture to hang in the gallery of our memories?

But what meanings are we to see within it? Were they simply calling upon God because they were afraid of the sea?

For my own part I would not blame them if they did tremble a bit as they stepped aboard their little craft, soon to be entrusted to the tender mercies of the north wind and to Neptune's fitful moods. But not so much fear of the sea was it that prompted them, as it was fear lest they fail to know the will of God and in their obedience to the same. What we have here is essentially the same as that exhibited by the Mayflower Company—a *people setting out on a vast new venture, not as bold and reckless plungers for fame and fortune, but as men and women who had been stirred to new religious life*, along with many others in England, both of those who came over here and those who remained at home, and *whose ruling idea was God's sovereign will* above them, and with them, in all their tasks of building the new community in His name.

I am not saying that their understanding of the God whom they sought to obey was perfect. It was indeed far from perfect. Their studies were more in the Old Testament than ours are. We give larger place to the study of Jesus in our effort to understand the will of God. That we believe is a great gain. *But the important fact to keep in mind* and to be thankful for is that they were honestly religious people, and that our *foundations were laid on the solid rock of faith* in the ever-living God. Rev. John Higginson speaking to the General Court of Massachusetts, May 27, 1676, is reported to have said: "This is never to be forgotten that New England is originally a plantation of Religion. If any man were to mark religion as 12 and the world as 13, let such a one know that he hath neither the spirit of a true New England man, nor yet of a sincere Christian."

Now, dear friends all, to whatever church you belong, or whatever reason you may have for not belonging to any, is there not something here of priceless worth that we all share as citizens of the community?

Large sections of the human family at this moment are attempting to build a civilization with God left out of it. There may be reasons for doing so in their case. It may be too soon to estimate their success. But so far at least, for one, I feel sure that their experiment should make us more glad than ever for our inheritance, and for the faith that we still have

that God is with us for good and for the good of the world and that a civilization with God left out will ultimately be neither human nor happy.

And is not that faith as essential for the new day as it was for the old? When we take a deep look into the distance—toward the sea whose unexplored spaces stretch before us, and upon which we, each alone as well as all together as a community, must launch out and make our adventure into the future—when, I say, we take such a look, can we fail to grasp the *supreme meaning of the faith of Warham and Huit, of Ludlow and Henry Wolcott*, or to rejoice in the inheritance which we have from such as they?

And this, my friends, is no divisive faith. It is this that unites us, as we are united in this meeting tonight, whatever our differences may be. Congregationalists and Catholics, and all who come between these two extremes of religious practice are one beneath the canopy of the one God, who is over us all, and let us hope with us all.

I had a new reminder the other day of how this fact of which I have been speaking has come to pervade our life, even when we are little aware of it. I took a copper penny from my pocket,—that little ready messenger that so often finds its way in the offering boxes on Sunday morning. I washed the little fellow's face, and there I saw what I had really forgotten, the words, "In God We Trust"—our legacy of faith stamped upon our smallest coin! After refreshing my memory with the penny, I looked at the dime, and then at the quarter, and lo! the same words printed there, "In God We Trust."

Having gone so far I thought I would read a dollar bill, and then a five dollar bill that had strayed into my pocket, but upon these I found no such words. I wonder if any such thought comes to your mind as came to mine? "Is it possible that the disappearance of the words from the higher brackets of the currency is a symbol of the disappearance of the faith from the more highly favored folks of the community?" That however, is but a fugitive thought that I have allowed to flit into my theme. Another legacy from the Fathers is very likely in your minds before I speak of it. If we must have a word for it, is there any other single word to describe it but dem-



ocracy? As I speak the word, I know the thoughts that come to the minds of some of you. "Were they democrats, these pioneers? Did they believe in equality?" And what instances you can bring up that savor more of aristocracy than of democracy! Take the practice of "seating the meeting-house," or "dignifying the seats" as it was called; one might ask "was that a democratic practice?" The men of wealth and occupants of public office were seated according to their station. And this principle was apparently held to all the way from the highest to the lowest. Deacon Hayden states in his valuable paper read at a previous anniversary that the seating of the common people was the more difficult task, which taxed the wisdom and patience of the Committee in charge. The difficulty was largely owing to the fact that individuals estimated their own rank higher than the committee or their neighbors rated them. This was not the only practice that seems hardly in line with the democratic principle of equality. Let us frankly admit that democracy was not a full-grown tree three centuries or even two centuries ago. But who can doubt that the vital seed of it was planted in this valley by the first comers?

The classic expression of the democratic principle for Americans, I suppose, is Jefferson's words in the Declaration of Independence, even though his words have been covered with ridicule by men who ought to know better. "We hold," said Jefferson "that all men are created equal." If we take pains to inquire what he meant, we shall not only be glad he said it, we shall agree with it. You only need to look in at the window of any home where there is a family of children, to see the truth of Jefferson's words, and the meaning of the word "equal" as used in such connection. In the family all the children are equal, are they not? Equal in the greatest fact of all, their relation to father and mother, to brothers and sisters—in the equal affection and care of the parents? Jefferson never intended to give words to the stupid idea that all the children are of the same height, have the same complexion, color of eyes and hair, or the same mental and spiritual gifts. In these respects what differences occurs within the bounds of the same family! Such I feel sure was the intent of Jefferson's classic phrase.

So you see his statement of democracy touches what we have in the faith of the Windsor Fathers. Democracy has its foundation in the faith that men are children of God, are members of God's great family. That one fact is above all others. And being children of God does not mean that they must all sit in the same seats, or belong to the same party, or work with the same tools, or have the same size pocketbook, or read the same books. Democracy implies as wide differences as are the gifts bestowed by the all-Father. The denial of this principle at this moment in some of the great nations of the world is among the most inhuman as well as ungodly things in the distressing history of the world. The one fact that gives democracy its meaning is that every man is a child of God (that his accountability is first of all to God and then to his fellows).

How plainly we behold these related facts in the early documents, both of Plymouth and of Connecticut! The Mayflower compact begins, as I have said, with the recognition of God. "In the name of God, Amen." Then in the presence of God and of one another they made the covenant for securing order in the community which they were to set up. And do you recall how the fundamental orders drawn up by Roger Ludlow began? "Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of his divine Providence so to order and dispose of things that we, the inhabitants of Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield are now cohabiting and dwelling in and upon the river of Connecticut and lands thereto adjoining; and well knowing where a people are gathered together the word of God requires that to mayntayne the peace and union of such people there should be an orderly government." Ludlow, the lawyer, multiplied his phrases way beyond the measure of the Mayflower compact written by laymen, but both documents witness to the fact that democracy as here conceived has its foundation upon the faith that men are children of God.

I know quite well what some critic of the period will say: "Ah! yes, it was faith in man as child of God, but what man? Was it not faith in the churchman, rather than faith in man? Was it not faith in a special class of men, the so-called religious

men?" This charge, with much truth, may be brought against the Bay Colony of Massachusetts, but it does not equally fit the case here. Thomas Hooker uttered the mind of our people when he said: "The choice of magistrates belongs unto the people by God's own allowance." He adds that this choice must be "exercised according to the blessed will and law of God." And there you have the principle of democracy as it was conceived by people here and in Hartford in 1638, and expressed in the cogent logic of Hartford's gifted preacher, a democracy of men, women too, in these later times,—who perform their tasks, both private and public, in the spirit of *reverence for the God of right* and of regard for fellow sharers in the common life. If we wanted a New Testament statement of it, what better could we find than the sum of the commandments as stated by Jesus, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself?"

This is the democracy, whatever its many failures and contradictions, that has come down to us as a legacy from those whom we celebrate in this anniversary.

The old preachers used to improve their theme by some pertinent lessons for their hearers drawn from it. I feel sure you will allow me to imitate them for a moment, especially as the hour glass is not ready to be turned.

I have spoken of the Fathers' faith in God; of their faith in man as a child of God; and I have said that upon such foundations our democracy rests, our liberties depend. Let me improve my theme by admonishing you to cherish your inheritance, and bequeath it undimmed to your children.

. . . . .

Coming into New York Harbor two summers ago I saw the face of a ten year old girl as she caught sight of the giant goddess of Liberty enlightening the world, whose radiant features look toward the rising sun. I thought the light in the face of the goddess might well be shadowed if not extinguished by the insults to Liberty that come from many quarters. But the light in the face of the little girl must never be darkened. For the sake of the children and the generations to come, we must cherish with quenchless ardor the legacy which we have

received from our far-seeing ancestors, and add to its completed beauty and perfection by our own enlightened devotion.

For we must remember that human liberty is a growing plant, sensitive to frosts, and requiring intelligent nurture. The goddess of which I just now made mention is a full-grown figure. She stands for liberty in its maturity, to be achieved in time to come. She was not so big in 1633. She has suffered, and still suffers the growing pains common to all life. In the early days, as we well know, liberty was a somewhat limited privilege, so indeed it must always be. At one time it was liberty to go to church but not to stay away. For a time here it was liberty to belong to the Congregational Church, but not to any other. In Massachusetts Bay it was liberty for the preaching of John Cotton, but not for Roger Williams. Let us admit these limitations, and let us judge them in the light of the times, having in mind the grave tasks of the responsible leaders of the community lest too easy division might lead to disaster. For liberty was a new wine that sometimes went to the head.

But let us never forget that the liberty founded on the faith in man as a child of God, *was a living thing*, and destined to grow; and so in the process of its growth, it came to mean liberty to leave the Congregational Church on the hill, with its white spire pointing toward heaven to bear its own witness, and to establish others according to the traditions, tastes, and beliefs of the different groups that came to make up the increasing community. Thus, this evening, having passed the period when separations curdled the milk of human kindness, we are all here,—all groups and denominations of Christians, each enjoying the type of worship that they desire, and all united in the one comprehensive fellowship of the people of God.

Such, my friends, was the adventure in ideas upon which our Fathers set out, and such is our heritage. Let us cherish it, rejoice in the blessings of it, and pass it on, in ampler beauty and perfection by reason of our own wisdom and devotion, to the children in whose bright faces we already beheld the light of the gleam.

### At the Athletic Field

The speakers' stand was erected near the High School between the two west entrances to the school building. In addition to the Governor and his Staff, the Hon. John T. Robinson, members of the Tercentenary Committee, and invited guests were seated on the platform. The Students of the High School under the direction of Miss C. Louise Dickerman, and the Windsor Band, led by Burton W. Elliott, occupied positions to the right of the speakers' stand. Seven hundred chairs placed before the stand were filled with visitors and a far greater number stood thru the program. Daniel Howard, Chairman, presided.

*The Chairman*—Three hundred years are a long time to wait for a celebration such as we are holding today, but the Ancient Town has waited patiently tho not idly, for Windsor has always had leaders who knew enough to know that no town could ever have a celebration that would be creditable, honorable, and glorious unless it produced citizens whose achievements were worthy of credit, of honor, and of glory.

It is because Windsor has produced citizens of this type that she is able today to say with truth that she is proud of her history, proud to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of her birth, and that she is happy to welcome all her citizens both native and adopted to the exercises of this occasion. She extends also a friendly and a maternal welcome to all her daughter towns.

Windsor, the pioneer, has always been a leader in affairs of church and state and her influence has spread not only thru our own state but also to every other state in our nation and even to other nations beyond the seas. Therefore, she welcomes here the representatives of other towns, the officials of our state and nation, and all men and women from everywhere who share with us our love of liberty and justice, brotherhood and cooperation, which have been the basis of our government and our influence.

Windsor has cherished a warm affection for the governors of our state. She furnished the first governor in the person of Roger Ludlow. To be sure this was long ago and as the machinery of government was not then highly developed the

title of governor had not come into use, but in a state the man who governs is a governor no matter what his name or title. The first real government of Connecticut was the General Court and the first President of the first General Court was Roger Ludlow of Windsor. Windsor, however, has produced other governors who bore the title as the records of the Wolcotts and the Ellsworths will amply certify. Hence when a governor comes to Windsor it must seem to him like paying a visit to the family home. We hope this is the way it seems to our governor today. At any rate we feel that Windsor is where he ought to be and where he ought to feel at home on this occasion. Therefore, it gives me the greatest pleasure and I deem it a signal honor to present to this gathering His Excellency, Wilbur L. Cross, Governor of the State of Connecticut.

#### THE ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR CROSS

It is, as I read, three hundred years to the day since William Holmes, with a little company from Plymouth Colony bid defiance to the Commander of the fort at Dutch Point, a few miles below here, and sailed onward up the Great River to Matianuck, afterwards renamed Windsor. This river winding through rich meadows, was a favorite haunt of the Indians. In their canoes they traversed its entire length from its mouth to its source. This part of the river here, neither too broad nor too narrow, they loved especially. The Great River and its tributaries abounded in fish, and all round them on the uplands were forests wild with game as well as with wolves. It was a happy valley of the Redmen.

Why, one may ask, did William Holmes and his men come over the long water-route from Plymouth to Windsor? Why did they not take a short-cut over the land? The only safe way then was by water. Lying between Plymouth and Matianuck was a vast wilderness over hills and across valleys, where wandered hostile Indians of various tribes. There was no long trail across the country, and the short trails were unknown or uncertain to all but the Redmen. After settlements along the shore, rivers were the usual pathways for penetrating the land. So the men of Plymouth, as the easiest and really the quickest route, came to Windsor by sea and river.

The floats we have seen today have brought back to life the ancient Redmen and have presented to us in symbolic scenes the story of Windsor from the blockade house built from Plymouth lumber, down through the great World War. One of your men, Mr. Daniel Howard, has just given us in *Glimpses of Ancient Windsor* most interesting detail of the way your ancestors once lived here. The tale he tells is fascinating and at time humorous. They would grow tobacco for instance and yet prevent the use of the weed by fines. Mr. John Robinson and others are to tell you more, not forgetting the worthies who attained eminence in church and state and in literature. I am here not to add anything new to the history of Windsor. I am here as Governor of Connecticut to congratulate you, as I now do, on your history and on this most appropriate manner in which you have observed your tercentenary.

You may be unaware that, though I was born in Mansfield, over in Tolland County, I am one of you by descent. A certain seafaring man named William Cross owned land in Windsor and in Wethersfield (in one or both places) as early as 1644. From this man I come in direct line. A restless adventurer who with others migrated from the Connecticut Colony to Fairfield, where he died, has been metamorphosed by the centuries into a Governor very quiet in his habits and indisposed to wander much.

It is a tradition of the family, now confirmed, that William Cross fought with your ancestors in the Pequot War. This means that he had a share in the terrible slaughter of the Pequots in their fort at Mystic. A few of the Pequots escaped the white men, and their descendants are now living on a reservation in North Stonington. A few months ago, I addressed an outdoor audience where these Pequots, with their ancient enemies, the Narragansetts, stood in the front lines. I took the occasion to apologize to them for what one of my ancestors may have done to their ancestors. They smiled, evidently regarding the incident as now forever closed.

Peter, the son of William Cross, fought with a few of your ancestors in the fierce war against King Philip along the eastern border of Connecticut and in Rhode Island. Peter,

the Indian fighter, eventually settled in what is now Mansfield, where he built a stockade as protection against the Indians on a promontory jutting out into the Natchaug River. His descendents pushed further up into the valley of the Fenton where my father lived. All this explains why I happened to be born by mistake in Mansfield instead of Windsor. But the family always kept up quietly its sentimental relations with Windsor. My father made many visits here with relatives of whom I have no knowledge as he died when I was but a boy. He had some connection with the famous old Grist Mill which was then owned and managed by a former Mansfield man. Thus the circle is completed.

And now, as the revenant of that William Cross of 1637, I come back to you for a day to join with you in celebrating an event most significant in Connecticut history.

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*The Chairman*—We have already mentioned the name of Roger Ludlow who was unquestionably the most eminent lawyer of his time in New England and possibly the most eminent in all the colonies that had then been settled. At a later period during the critical years of the Revolutionary War and the years following that war when our national government was being organized, Oliver Ellsworth of Windsor was pre-eminent among the lawyers of that time. Still later at the time when our State Constitution was adopted, John M. Niles of Windsor, the leader in the movement that produced that Constitution, was a legal star of the first magnitude. Eminent lawyers, therefore, find themselves in a congenial atmosphere when they breathe the air of old Windsor. That is why we have chosen an eminent lawyer to deliver the historical address on this historic occasion. I have the great pleasure and the great honor of presenting the Hon. John T. Robinson of Hartford.

ADDRESS OF HON. JOHN T. ROBINSON

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Governor Cross,  
Fellow Citizens:

It is a privilege to salute the Town of Windsor, the first settlement in Connecticut and in a real sense the birthplace of American constitutional history and American democracy.



Old age in itself is not always glorious but a long life filled with honorable achievement is justly a source of pride. Your three centuries of life have been replete with honor and achievement.

Three hundred years ago today, William Holmes and his little band of followers from Plymouth were making their first settlement. They were soon joined by other settlers from Dorchester. Matianuck was your first name. This was soon changed to Dorchester and shortly to Windsor. As they well knew, terrifying hardships faced these first settlers. The good earth itself was none too friendly. Dangerous beasts swarmed the forests and far more dangerous were the war-like Pequots who infested the woods to the east. The purpose in their minds and the courage in their hearts proved strong enough to overcome all the hardships. Under the leadership of your own Captain John Mason, the Pequots were soon disposed of in a somewhat ruthless though perhaps necessary manner. Soon the Indians, even the friendly ones, disappeared and today we have little left of these first Americans save a few names. Even these names are being tampered with by the modern geographer who has ruthlessly wrenched away the name Tunxis from your beautiful river. However, hearing the band play Yankee Doodle reminds me that we still have the term "Yankee" which the Indians bestowed upon the early settlers of Connecticut. Although the Nation as a whole is seeking to appropriate this name, it belongs of ancient right to the people of Connecticut.

We are honored today by the presence of the seventy-first Governor of Connecticut. The thirteenth Governor was Roger Wolcott, of Windsor, a distinguished general and able statesman. Observing Governor Cross's blue sash, I am reminded that Governor Wolcott's customary costume consisted of a scarlet coat with gilt buttons and other ornaments, a three-cornered hat with a cockade, and a long flowing wig. I think Governor Cross would look quite beautiful in such a costume but he does not need it to enhance his dignity any more than did Governor Wolcott.

For three hundred years the people of Windsor and her neighboring towns have enjoyed civil and political liberty to

a degree unprecedented in human history. For the first one hundred fifty years, it is true, you were under the nominal dominion of the British King but even during that period the hand of sovereignty lay lightly upon you. And for all these three hundred years save for the short usurpation of Sir Edmund Andros, you have been choosing your own Governor and officers according to your own will. No other American state or colony save Rhode Island has enjoyed such a term of self-government.

The first settlers of New England were Pilgrims fleeing to our shores to escape from political and religious tyranny. Scoffers have asserted that the first settlers of Connecticut came to this valley for material ends but this is unjust and largely untrue. The government of Massachusetts from which they migrated was theocratic or aristocratic. Only church members in regular standing could vote or participate in governmental affairs. The liberal souls of Roger Ludlow, Thomas Hooker and their followers thirsted for freedom and the migration from Massachusetts to Connecticut was a great step forward in political freedom.

Before I speak more of our forefathers, I wish to do honor to the memory of our foremothers, who played a decidedly important part in the creation of the subsequent generations. I doubt not that hardships made the Puritan fathers somewhat stern. Not only did the Puritan mothers have to put up with the same hardships borne by the Puritan fathers, but as someone has suggested, they had to put up with the Puritan fathers themselves. Today let us do honor to the generations of noble women who have borne so great a part in the life of this community for three hundred years.

What were the qualities of character of these men and women which blossomed in illustrious accomplishment in their own and future generations? They had the pioneer spirit, which bore fruit in such a man as John Fitch, whose invention of the steamboat was the most revolutionary invention in the history of navigation; they had a hunger and thirst for civil and political liberty which bore fruit in such statemen as Roger Ludlow and Oliver Ellsworth; they had infinite cour-

age which bore fruit in such men as Mason and Wolcott and Bissell, the patriot spy, and the long line of brave soldiers who have taken part in every one of our wars; and in spite of their outward sternness, they had a love of beauty which blossomed forth in such a poet as Edward Rowland Sill; and they had an ever present determination to do the will of God which through three centuries has bloomed forth in virtue and integrity in the succeeding generations of women and men.

I have referred to Windsor as the birthplace of American constitutional history. It was in 1639 that the newborn colony of Connecticut, consisting then of the three towns of Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford, adopted the Fundamental Orders, the first written constitution in human history.

As a citizen of Hartford I naturally take infinite pride in the spirit of liberty which burst forth from the tongue and soul of Thomas Hooker and which found embodiment in the first constitution. But however much Thomas Hooker and others may have contributed to the creation of the Fundamental Orders, it was Roger Ludlow, of Windsor, who actually framed and drafted that immortal document. Ludlow, the statesman and lawyer, and Hooker, the statesman and preacher, were both pioneers and liberals. Not content to bow to existing restraints, their vision was forward and upward.

“The true authority for a government is the free consent of the people” preached Thomas Hooker from his pulpit, and again, “The people have the right to say what shall be the powers and duties of the officers they choose.” Today these sentiments sound commonplace. In the days of Hooker and Ludlow they were bold radicalism. In formulating these sentiments into a written frame for government, Ludlow and Hooker laid the foundation and precedent for constitutional government in this land. They were benefactors of humanity and must be numbered among the great.

The statesmen of Windsor have specialized in fundamental things. The Constitution of the United States was largely the handiwork of Oliver Ellsworth, your most illustrious statesman. In the great Constitutional Convention he was

one of the committee of five entrusted with the actual framing of the instrument. His participation in the making of the Constitution has never been adequately recognized. Not only was he one of the major architects of our country's Constitution, but his mind and hand framed the Judiciary Act which established the system of Federal Courts for the Nation, a system which has worked well down to the present time. His appointment to the office of Chief Justice of the Nation's Supreme Court was a fitting acknowledgment of his great services to his country.

In spite of Mr. Henry Ford's quoted assertion that history is "Bunk," I believe the man who cannot find inspiration for the future in such a history as that of Windsor must have a sodden soul. Today the world is in turmoil. Kings and emperors have lost their crowns. Parliaments have been swept into the discard. Nations are ruled by dictators with no constitutional restraint. . . . In our own Nation there lie before us tremendous problems, whose solution will call for the wisest statesmanship. The United States Constitution itself will certainly be put to severe strain. Shall we cast aside the wisdom and principles of statesmen like Ellsworth or rather shall we not study them for our guidance in the future? When James Russell Lowell was asked how long the American Republic would endure, he replied, "So long as it is true to the principles of its founders."

Windsor has indeed had three Centuries of Progress. But do not deceive yourselves into thinking that the history of Windsor has been written. Look forward to the three centuries to come. Perchance among the schoolboys listening to my voice there may be a Ludlow or an Ellsworth to help the Nation solve the vast problems of its future.

Pride in the past is justly yours. Let it not lull you into easy contentment. Rather let the past be your inspiration for achievements in the years and centuries yet to come.

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