



Vol. 8 No. 4

Fall 2016

Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society



Programs & Events



• Sunday, September 11 •

3 pm—5pm

Croquet Picnic at the Beaumont House

**Old fashioned fun
for all ages**

Bring your own lawn chairs,
blankets and picnic dinner.

Cold drinks & desserts
will be provided.



• Saturday, September 24 •

9 am—3pm

50th Annual

Outdoor Antiques Show on the Lebanon Green

Held rain or shine

\$5 admission

Free parking

Refreshments available
for purchase all day.



• Sunday, October 9 •

10am

“Who Is Down Under the Stones at

Center Cemetery”

Walktober Walk

Guided walk led by

Genealogist Lindy

Brunkhorst-Olewine.

Meet at the Center Cemtery.



Events continued on Page 4

The Signer's Siblings: Who Are They?

By Alicia Wayland

They called him Bille, and spelled it that way, too, as B-i-l-l-e. The “they” are the parents and siblings of William Williams, by which name he signed the Declaration of Independence, of course. But all throughout his youth, spent in the family home at 921 Trumbull Highway, Bille was how he was called.

The siblings Bille grew up with can provide valuable context to a person's life history. Their father, the Rev. Solomon Williams, purchased the house from the Rev. Samuel Welles when he was called to the First Church to replace Welles. Solomon Williams served the church for 54 years until his death in 1776. Called in February 1722, Solomon was ordained as the third pastor the following December. In 1723, Solomon married Mary Porter of Hadley, Mass. Their eleven children were all born and raised in this house.

In 1723, the first child to be born in the house was Solomon Williams, who died a short time after birth.

The second child, also a son, was also called Solomon Williams, following the tradition to name the next child the same as the deceased child.

He was born in 1725, not 1723, as is often mistakenly cited as his birth year. Solomon died in 1743 only a few short weeks after

returning home from his graduation from Yale.

Eliphalet Williams (1727-1803) was the next born. He also graduated from Yale in 1743. He studied theology with his father and on March 30, 1748,

he was ordained pastor of the church in East Hartford. He married Mary Williams, daughter of Rector Elisha Williams of Wethersfield, who was his father's half brother. He was a very strong supporter of the Revolution. He served as a Fellow of Yale College from 1769-1801.

Ezekial Williams (1729-



William Williams, Portrait by John Trumbull
Private Collection

1818) is the only son who did not attend college. He moved to Wethersfield and became a merchant. He married a second cousin, Prudence Stoddard of Northampton, Mass., in 1760. In 1767, he was appointed Sheriff of Hartford County, serving until 1789. He, too, was a strong supporter of the Revolution. When fighting broke out, Ezekial was appointed to the Committee on the Pay Table, which audited Connecticut's war expenses, and was also named Commissary of Prisoners, serving in these demanding positions throughout the war.

Continued on page 10
Page 1

**The mission of the
Lebanon Historical
Society**

*To encourage a sense
of community, the
Lebanon Historical
Society connects
residents and visitors
with the people, places,
objects and stories
of the Town's past.*

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Donna Baron

From the President

Rick Kane

Thanks to all those who contributed to our very successful 7th Annual "Evening at the Museum" event on July 16, 2016. And by success we mean the wonderful time enjoyed by all attendees. I really do need to mention all the folks who contributed to its success:

Jaime Holder and Elm Package Store for arranging the wine & beer tasting; The distributors who provided the wines and beers; Prides Corner Farm for all the plants around the tents; Jim & Geri McCaw for furnishing the tents, tables and chairs; Moose Meadow Caterers for a delicious dinner; Cafemantic for superb hors d'oeuvres; the musicians of "Sequel" for the perfect background music; servers Willow, Kelsey and Julia who served us well; the many supporters who provided donations for the silent auction or who underwrote some of our expenses; the volunteers who set everything up on Friday and dismantled things on Sunday.

And a round of applause to the "Evening at the Museum" committee who somehow pulled it all together and made this wonderful event happen.

And more importantly all those who attended and made it a success! Our attendance has reached peak at 170 so I urge those who plan to attend next year to submit responses as early as possible. After all it IS the social event of the year in Lebanon!!!

In the previous "Provisions," I mentioned the call for volunteers to catalogue our extensive collections. Several came forward and have begun the process. My thanks to Ashley Desrosiers, Marianne Freschlin, Linda Wallace and Sue Kane. Likewise, we are always interested in more Oral Histories. You may think you do not have anything to add but I am sure you do or know of someone who does. We stand ready to interview all comers!

The Campus Planning Committee continues to meet regularly and changes will be forthcoming as early as this fall. We have a few additions to the campus planned and will perhaps decide to relocate a few of our smaller buildings to support the Beaumont House farming family working farm construct. More to follow!

I know the program committee is busy and urge you to keep an eye open for forthcoming programs both in this "Provisions" and in Lebanon Life.



*A toast celebrating our
50th anniversary.
Thank you to all our members
and supporters!*

We are happy to announce that **Brenden Ruckdeschel** is the recipient of this year's Lebanon Historical Society \$1000 college scholarship in recognition of his many volunteer hours researching Lebanon's indentures and apprenticeships.

Director's Message

Donna Baron

Exhibits have been on my mind recently, perhaps because we have set ourselves a really ambitious exhibit schedule in 2016. Already this year, volunteers and staff have installed the new gallery exhibit "How They Learned, Education in Lebanon 1700-1970," moved and re-installed the exhibit of medical implements and installed a display about the Society's first fifty years and objects that describe the town from 1960-1975.

While we worked on these projects, an intern from ECSU organized all the records about farming-related artifacts and prepared a plan for our next exhibit project. Final planning and installation for a long-anticipated "Farming in Lebanon" exhibit should start in August. Once again, we will depend on volunteers for all parts of the effort.

Then, starting in late September, we will be removing the Multi-Purpose/ Meeting Room display and replacing it with a new look at Lebanon's historic cemeteries and gravestones. This display will feature information about current efforts to document, map and preserve the stones.

Many hands do make light work when it comes to exhibits at the Historical Society. Whether your interests lie in conducting background research, hunting for the perfect photograph or object, building exhibit elements or hanging artifacts on the walls, there is a task that is perfect for your talents and inclinations. This summer and fall are an excellent time to try out something new or take advantage of existing skills.

If you have a bit of time and would like to help, please call or email the Museum. We definitely have a place for you and a great group of committed volunteers for you to join.

Trivia Answer:

The five Connecticut governors born and raised in Lebanon are (with terms of office):

Jonathan Trumbull Sr.,
1769-1784;

Jonathan Trumbull Jr.,
1797-1809;

Clark Bissell, 1847-1849;

Joseph Trumbull,
1849-1850
(Gov. Trumbull's grandson);

William A. Buckingham,
1858-1866.

Terms were only for one year; governors and other state officials had to be voted on every year.

Would you be willing to sponsor our newsletter?

Every issue of the newsletter costs \$300 to produce and mail.

We are always in need of full or partial sponsorships. If you are interested please contact us at 860-642-6579.

Contact Us:

The Lebanon Historical Society
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249

860-642-6579

**museum@
historyoflebanon.org**
**www.
historyoflebanon.org**

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

Research Library
by appointment.

Welcome to our newest members

Bronze Benefactor
James & Elena Watras
of Farmington

Family
Steve & Jennifer Blevins
of Lebanon

David & Nora Chamberlain
of Lebanon

Individual Senior
Gary King
of Columbia

You are invited to a
CROQUET Picnic

**Sunday,
September 11, 2016
3pm to 5pm**

On the Beaumont House Lawn
Bring your own lawn chairs,
blankets & a picnic dinner.
Cold drinks & desserts provided

**Beginners and experienced players welcome.
The public is invited to this free event!**

**Lebanon Historical Society
MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER**
located on the Historic Lebanon Green
856 Trumbull Hwy, Lebanon
Call 860-642-6579 for further information
or visit www.historyoflebanon.org

Celebrating our 50th ANNIVERSARY
Beaumont House is located on the Lebanon Historical Society Museum Campus

Calendar Of Events



- **Sunday, October 9 •**
2pm

Connecticut Samplers

Talk by Lois Peltz, on the history of samplers with information on their conservation provided by Donna Baron. Participants are welcome to bring their own samplers.



- **Saturday, October 22 •**
10am

Scavenger Hunt on the Lebanon Green

Walktober Walk

Guided walk led by Donna Baron.

Meet at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum



- **Sunday, November 6 •**
6pm

"Stew & Story"

at the Log Cabin

with State Historian Walt Woodward

Cost to be determined. Reservations Required



- **Sunday, November 13 •**
2pm

"What Makes Connecticut Connecticut"

with State Historian Walt Woodward

At Yeoman's Hall, Columbia



- **Sunday, December 4 •**
6pm - 8pm

Tree Lighting Open House

History of Croquet

By Donna Baron

Warm summer evenings in the 1950s and 1960s often included the distinctive "thwack" of wooden mallets hitting wooden balls as families battled through wickets while avoiding being hit by "poison." Backyard croquet was a part of summer for many, children and adults alike. This game with a somewhat mysterious origin has seen many swings in its popularity as both a recreation and a competitive sport.

Tradition holds that the earliest versions of croquet

date back to late Middle Ages. Prints from the 13th through the 16th centuries depict men hitting balls with sticks through bent over twigs. A version of the modern game may have been introduced in England from France during Charles II's reign (1660-1685).

It was called "pall mall," a name derived from the Latin for "ball and mallet." The name "croquet" probably evolved as an elegant version of the Irish game of "crookey."

The first rules for croquet were published in England by toy-maker Isaac Spratt who copyrighted his work in 1853. By 1862, croquet sets were available for purchase in New York and croquet was featured in a Godey's Lady Book magazine in the fall of 1864. The following spring Godey's published the rules because "...this game is becoming

"A new and fashionable amusement for the ladies may be found in the game of croquet, which is fast winning its way into the favor and esteem of all who make its acquaintance..."



very fashionable..."

In August 1865, Godey's informed its readers that "A new and fashionable amusement for the ladies may be found in the game of croquet, which is fast winning its way into the favor and esteem of all who make its acquaintance. It is a delightful game; it gives grace to the movements of the players; it can be played on any little grass-plot, and the implements of the game are becoming so cheap as to place them within the reach of all. Boys and girls, young men and maidens, and (as we do know), a good many older ones, find in it a most healthful and fascinating out-door recreation."

Although first adopted by affluent households, Milton Bradley & Co. quickly made rules and croquet sets

Continued on page 11

Roger Foote and Taylor Bridge Roads

By Rick Kane

Roger Foote Road and Taylor Bridge Road are located in the lower southwest area of Lebanon with Roger Foote Road terminating on Old Route 2. These two roads along with Geer Road and Old Route 2 encircle Savin Lake, which is now a Connecticut State Park.

As in the case of a number of road names in Lebanon, these two originate from families who owned and operated farms dating back in to the mid-1800s. Viewing the 1868 Map of Lebanon (below right) for that area we see C. B. Sherman owning property in the same location as what eventually became known as the Roger Foote Farm and "Foote's Corner." A closer look at the 1868 map and roads in that area, show a road from about midway down Geer Road leading across what is today Savin Lake and terminating at Roger Foote Road just south of the Sherman farm, creating what became known as "Foote's Corner."

This road was possible because at that time Savin Lake did not exist, Bartlett Brook did flow to the Yantic River at that time. In a press release dated May 23, 2014, regarding state funding for the repair of the Savin Lake dam, it noted the existing dam was more than 70 years old which would suggest the Lake was created some time in the 1940s. C.B. Sherman (Clark Bailey Sherman) and his wife had a daughter Minerva, who grew up and married Roger Foote who came to Connecticut from Rhode Island. The house and property was transferred from C.B. Sherman to his daughter Minnie (Minerva) Foote on February 2, 1891. Upon Minnie's death, the property transferred to Roger Foote in June of 1912. After being sold several times, it ended up with Abraham I. Savin, who

bought it on May 22, 1945.

In the same area, was land owned by Charles Taylor. His property was actually on what is now Taylor Bridge Road, but it was not known as such until much later in the 1980s. On the 1957 CT DOT map of Lebanon, Roger Foote Road starts at the intersection of McCall and Geer Road and runs for about a half mile and takes a sharp 90 degree turn left and continues to Old Route 2. This description is taken from the notes of a special Town meeting on March 30 1988, when the motion carried to rename that section of Roger Foote Road to Taylor Bridge Road. There is a concrete bridge that exists today that would be necessary

Continued on page 11



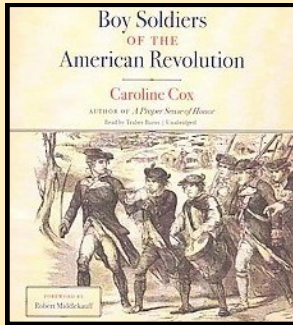
Section of a current Google map of Lebanon.



A section of the Lebanon map from the 1868 Beers Atlas of New London County. Note that Savin Lake had not been created yet.

A Good Read

By Betty Forrest



Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution

By Carolyn Cox

Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution, by Caroline Cox, covers the experience of boys in the Revolutionary War and in the Continental Army from 1775-1783. Soldiers under the age of sixteen were considered boys, but there were some boys as young as nine or ten. This book gives some of the reasons a boy might join the army, how long they served and their reason for leaving. Cox used collections of letters written by soldiers and others, memoirs, diaries, court records, statutes and local histories, among other materials bearing on the war. "Perhaps it was like this" is a phrase used in six word-portraits that initiate vignettes related in oral applications for pensions.

Boys served in the militia and the regular army. They often went as waiters to their fathers, and often in company of other relatives or other men from their village. They served for short periods of time, months, to years. They often served as substitutes for other men (a normal practice)

Continued on page 7 sidebar

An Evening to Remember

By Sandie Chalifoux

The morning after- Getting ready to go to the museum (my second home for the month of July) to finish the morning after clean-up. I sit here this morning thinking about last night's "Evening at the Museum" event held on the Lebanon Historical Society Museum grounds. Celebrating our 50th anniversary, the committee wanted it to be "exceptional." We started meeting after the first of the year, to plan, meeting once a month selecting a theme, creating invitations, centerpieces, food, silent auction items, liquor permits, insurance, music, set up and take down help, etc. proceeding to the culmination date of July 16, 2016.

The committee consisted of Co-Chairs: Connie Berglund and Sandie Chalifoux, Jacy Worth, Linda Heatherly, Linda Wallace, Sue Kane, Marianne Freschlin, Suzanne Yeo, Alicia Lamb (who kept track of our spending), Donna Baron, and Gracie Sayles (who kept it all looking pretty) What would we do without her? This year we had 170 paying guests, to top all previous "Evening at the Museum" gatherings. We are so appreciative to have such wonderful support for our fund raiser. I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee, our partners, setting up and taking down the tents, chairs etc., all the persons who donated to the silent auction, donors that helped fund the event, and all the bidders that went home with a wonderful prize! Also to Elm Package Store and their distributors, who contributed the wine, beer and hostesses for the event. Last but not least the three young women, Willow Chesmer, Julia Konow, and Kelsey Konow that made sure everyone had the amenities delivered to their tables.

The committee hopes everyone enjoyed the evening as much as we did planning it and bringing it to fruition. Please save the date, July 15, 2017, for next year's "Evening at the Museum." *Hope to see you there!!!!*



From Our Collection

From the Collections:

Lucretia Beaumont's and Susannah Loring's samplers



Susannah Loring's 1834 sampler - 1976.001.00

For many years, textile historians have used construction and motif details to associate girls' embroideries and samplers with particular schools or academies. Two samplers in the Lebanon Historical Society collection are part of a group of related pieces that share both motifs and techniques but are not identified with any school. Recent research suggests that in this case a church rather than a school may be the common thread that links the makers and their teachers.

The twelve related samplers were made between 1826(?) and 1836 and all feature the figure of a young woman with a tiny waist wearing a fashionable gown. In most of the samplers, the figure's gown has vertical stripes; she is carrying a raised green parasol



and is standing near a substantial red-colored building.

Of the three teachers named on Lebanon-made samplers (Polly Kingsley, Lydia L. Scovell and Ann[e] Beaumont) two have known affiliations with the First Baptist Church.

Ten of the girls who stitched these samplers listed Lebanon as their home. Seven of these girls (Clarissa Loomis, Elizabeth and Lydia Segar, Hannah and Susannah Loring, Lucretia Beaumont and Cordelia Hayward) were either married by Baptist ministers or were members of extended family groups who were active in the Baptist Church.

It is not clear whether stitchery classes were part of a ladies' sewing circle at the First Baptist Church or whether this was a group of young women and girls sharing ideas and skills in a friendship-based exchange. It does appear, however, that the reason that scholars have been unable to find the "unidentified Lebanon Ladies Academy" referenced in several well-known books about samplers is that there was no school.



Signature line from Lucretia Beaumont's sampler - 1973.001.001

Continued from page 6 sidebar

often leaving and reentering service several times. As young boys in the army they did chores about camp, and they were often trained in how to play the drum and fife. These instruments were often easily adjusted to their size. It was often hoped by commanding officers that as the boys grew into men that they would be able to fight as soldiers in the army.

Cox includes a great deal about the mores of the time regarding child rearing, family practices, and general relationships between family members. These often prompted a family and boy's decision to join the army.

A boy's size and age entered into this decision as well. There were many reasons that a boy joined in the war.

Both the Preface and the Introduction in [The Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution](#) are worth a read.

There is lots of great information there that sets the stage for the rest of the book. Much of the information centers on soldiers from New England in general, Connecticut, and our own Lebanon and Windham County. These bits help to personalize the information and make it more real.

This book is full of well documented information that is easy to read. It covers a very small population during a relatively short period of time. It is dense with great stuff, and definitely worth the time that it takes to read it.

Thank you for your generous donations

Our rapidly growing library collection includes:

- __ Lebanon land records on microfilm
- __ Exeter Congregational Church records on microfilm

Early American newspapers on microfilm :

- __ The Windham Herald (1791-1795)
- __ The Norwich Currier (1796—1820)

Some of the computerized databases include:

Lebanon Births

- __ Barbour index to vital records
Births, deaths & marriages
(1700-1854)

Lebanon Baptisms:

- __ First Congregational Church (1700-1836)
- __ Goshen Congregational Church (1729-1882)

Lebanon Marriages:

- __ Early CT Marriages by Frederick Bailey before 1800
- __ First Church (1816-1821)
- __ Town records (1852-1884)

Lebanon Deaths:

- __ Town records (1851-1884)
- __ Hale Cemetery records for Lebanon , Columbia, Hebron
- __ Old Willimantic cemetery, Windham
- __ First Congregational Church (1872-1840)

Census records:

Federal Census 1790, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1910

1850 Lebanon Agricultural Census

These are just some of the records in our research library.

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Evening at the Museum-2016

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In Memory of Rory Geer

Robert & Sandra Chalifoux
Ronald Geer
Craig & Mary Randall

*How very fortunate we are to have
so many members and non-members who have
shown their support of our important mission
of collecting, preserving and sharing
Lebanon's precious history through
their generous monetary donations.*

Lebanon celebrates 50 years of its outdoor antiques show

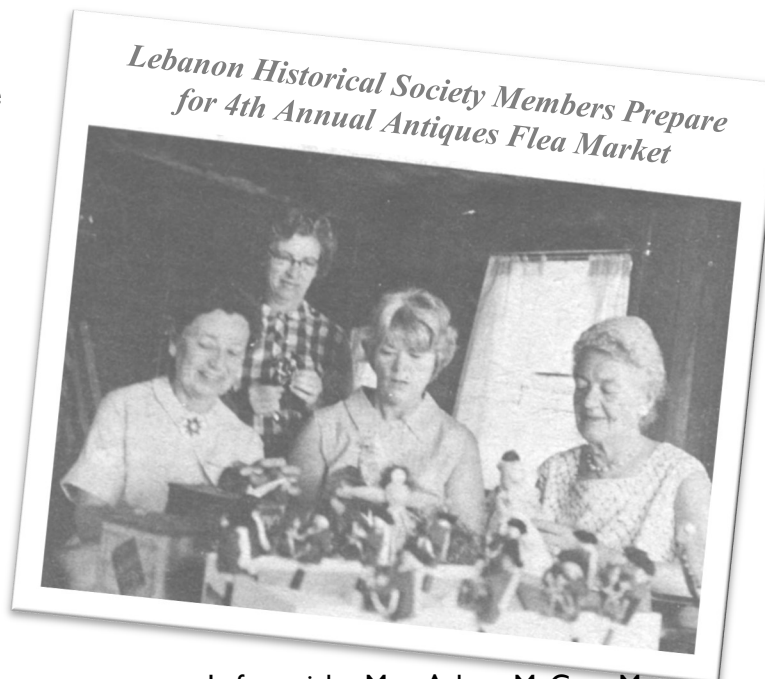
By Donna Baron

In 1966, members of the Lebanon Historical Society had many plans for future programs and looked forward to a time when the Society would have its own building. Such ambitious plans would require funding. Finding ways to raise money soon became a priority.

That September, the Historical Society hosted its first "Antiques Flea Market" on the Lebanon Green. Spear-headed by Lebanon antiques dealer Jenny Foley and dedicated Historical Society volunteer Arlene McCaw, the event was an almost immediate success. Newspaper articles about the Fourth Annual Antiques Flea Market report that the show had almost doubled its attendance and included "approximately 50 top dealers."

During the early years, Historical Society members made and sold handcrafted items such as cornhusk and clothespin dolls and dried flower arrangements. Homemade foods were also a featured part of the one-day outdoor show. Using the kitchen and fellowship hall at the First Congregational Church, volunteers made corn and clam chowder and sandwiches. Helpers cut donated pies and cakes into wedges while others grilled burgers and hot dogs for thousands of visitors and almost 100 antiques dealers.

Each year, profits from the Antiques Show accumulated.



Left to right: Mrs. Arlene McCaw, Mrs. Ruth Drew (standing), Mrs. Jennie Foley and Mrs. Edith Black, preparing items to be sold at the Lebanon Historical Society booth at the 4th annual Antiques Market.

As other Connecticut outdoor antiques shows gradually stop operating, Lebanon's continued to thrive. In the mid-1990s, Antiques Show funds were used to purchase a piece of land on the east side of the Trumbull Highway, a purchase which led to the building of the museum building a few years later.

Today the Antiques Show is a bit smaller (reflecting the nature of the modern antiques market), but still thriving. Visitors and dealers enjoy the ambiance of

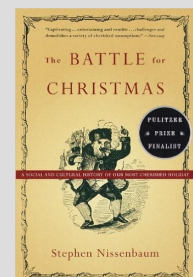
Lebanon's Green on an early fall Saturday. The chance to find a treasure and enjoy a cup of chowder or a slice of homemade pie still attracts a large number of visitors. Thanks to the hard work of our community of volunteers, the Antiques Show is still the Historical Society's most successful fund raising event.

Norwich Bulletin October 1967
Mrs. Arlene McCaw termed the recent flea market "a tremendous success," and though all bills have not been received she estimated a profit of about \$800. She said the committee is already planning of next year-hopeful that the members will decide to make this an annual event.

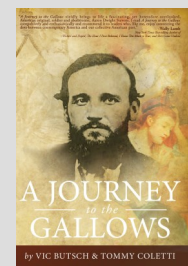
Reading & talking about history for the fun of it!



Join us for the Lebanon Historical Society history book club. We invite you to join us as we select books and share our thoughts and reactions in open and engaging conversation. Refreshments served.



Discussion — 7pm
Wed., October 12
Book: "The Battle for Christmas"



Discussion — 7pm
Wed., January 11
Book: "Journey to the Gallows"

You can also find our new selection and discussion date announcements on our website and Facebook
For more information call the museum 860-642-6579

Oral History Project

We are eager to resume our oral history project once again and we are looking for a few people who might be interested in helping us capture the town's history through the recollections of our most valuable resource, the residents of our community.

A sample of some of the treasured memories we have captured through our oral history project are on the sidebar on the opposite page.

Oversights & corrections
in our last issue of
Provisions



From the Collection article
which appeared on page 6.

~We misidentified the
donor of the wonderful
Lebanon Drum Corp
snare drum.

We apologize to Mr.
Sanford Wetmore.



On the front page article
"Lyman Legacy" the first
paragraph should have
read there were
51 original proprietors
of Lebanon, not 52,
as stated.

Front page continued

Continued from page 1

William Williams (1730/31-1811) was a Harvard graduate, earning his B.A. in 1751 and M.A. in 1754. Deeply religious, he studied theology under his father but decided against the ministry and became a local merchant. He was elected to numerous state and local offices (see *below*) and was a leader in rousing support for the Revolutionary War throughout the state. He married Mary Trumbull, daughter of Governor Jonathan Trumbull. They had three children.

Mary Williams (1733-1794), the first girl in the family, married on June 17, 1767, the Rev. Richard Salter, who was pastor of the First Church in Mansfield from 1744-1787, the year he died. Salter also served as a Yale College Fellow from 1771-1780. He preached the sermon at the ordination on Sept. 30, 1767, of his future brother-in-law the Rev. Timothy Stone of the Goshen parish who would marry his wife's sister in 1769.

Thomas Williams (1735-1819) was a graduate of Yale in 1756. Thomas returned to Lebanon and practiced medicine in his childhood home, sharing the house with his parents. He married Rebecca Wells (1743-1793), daughter of Captain Samuel Wells and Esther (Ellsworth) Wells of East Hartford.

Christian Williams (1738-1816) married Squire John Salter of Mansfield, brother of the Rev. Richard Salter, on Aug. 17, 1768. John Salter was a lawyer and large landholder, who served as a representative in the General Assembly and as a Justice of the Peace.

Both Mary and her sister Christian are known to have produced elaborate embroidery works in the Connecticut needlework tradition as young girls while at home. But where they learned this skill or from whom is not known.

Moses Williams, the seventh son, was born May 8, 1740. In a March 1750 letter to his brother Elisha, Solomon Williams informs him that in January five of his

children contracted throat distemper (diphtheria), that took the life of 10-year-old Moses on January 12, while the others struggled with long and severe recoveries.

Samuel Williams was born Dec. 5, 1741 but lived only until Jan. 30, 1742.

Eunice Williams (1743-1831) married the Rev. Timothy Stone (1742-1797), pastor of the Goshen Church in Lebanon. Stone served the Goshen parish from 1766 to 1797.

William Williams was not a nationally known statesman, although he is always admired as a great patriot as a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. But his political career in Connecticut and Lebanon was one of very important service to the colony/state and to his hometown. He served in numerous local and state offices, including 44 years as town clerk, 27 years as a selectman, 25 years as a local judge, and over 30 years as a member of both the upper and lower houses in the General Assembly. When fighting broke out following the Lexington-Concord alarm, William was appointed to the Council of Safety, established by the General Assembly in May 1775, and served as its clerk throughout the entire war.

Throughout his adult life William lived in the house on the southeast corner of Routes 87 and 207, at 876 Trumbull Highway. His father bought the property in 1748 and deeded it to William in 1755 when he was 25 years old. It was a very short distance to his birthplace and Bille would have kept in close touch with his parents and siblings still at home.

A fine, but brief, 75-page biography of William by Bruce Stark, published in 1975 by the state's American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has provided basic information for this article. Titled *Connecticut Signer: William Williams*, is available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library in town and also available for purchase for \$5 in the Lebanon Historical Society gift shop and is well worth seeking out.

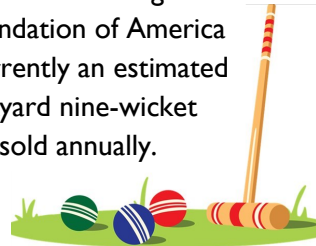
Croquet

Continued from page 4

available to middleclass families. Magazine illustrations and professionally trained artists continued to show ladies, gentlemen and children playing croquet throughout the second half of the 19th century. Fashion historians have traced the development of shortened dresses for women and girls to the need for comfortable clothing while playing croquet.

The fashion for lawn tennis and the impact of World War I somewhat

diminished croquet's appeal in the early 20th century. However, by the beginning of World War II, interest had resurged as toy makers marketed a physically smaller croquet set with simplified rules. According to the Croquet Foundation of America there are currently an estimated 100,000 backyard nine-wicket croquet sets sold annually.



Roger Foote & Taylor Bridge Roads

Continued from page 6

to cross the Bartlett Brook just before the Taylor house. It may be the reason behind the road including the word bridge in its name.

I found no reference to the acceptance of Roger Foote Road or approval for its name, but in land records it has been noted as a boundary as follows "bounded by Roger Foote Road (so called)," so as mentioned previously these road names became so as defaulted by who lived on them or owned the land. (Please note: Paul Truby of Beltane Farm lives in the house once owned by the Taylor family. He has researched the history of the house and family and that document resides at the Lebanon Historical Society).

There were several other roads in that area which no longer exist. Mentioned in land records describing

the property of a resident in the area where Roger Foote and Taylor Bridge roads met, were Perry Road, Old Hill Road and Harbor Road. This area of town is right along the Lebanon Colchester line and if you view that area via Google Earth you can see the remnants of a road that is the continuation of Taylor Bridge Road today from the intersection of Roger Foote Road and meets up with Sullivan Road in Colchester.

Harbor Road exists today but only a short distance originating in Colchester off Old Route 2 northeast towards Lebanon. But looking on Google Earth you can see what appears to be the remnant of a road. This is the "Old Hill Road" mentioned in one of the earlier land records. Old Hill Road does not exist today.



As we continue to identify the source and origin of road names in Lebanon, we hope to have more families provide the history of road names associated with their ancestors. Anyone who has such information is welcome to send it along and we will include one per issue or as space allows, as we have over the last year or so.

An excerpt from Albert Pearce's 1978 oral history interview

In answer to a question about the first school bus that Henry Aspinall drove in 1931, "Well, the first school bus I had, if you really want to call it that, well is actually was nearer to a school bus than any other in town. We had a couple of others but they were simply truck bodies, you know, with canvas over the top, and of course previous to that they had been carried by horse conveyance but mine was a Ford with a low speed rear-end called a Ruxel rear-end. It was a baker's wagon, so, of course it had doors in the back and we cut holes in the side and put in the windows. Of course at that time it fitted the conditions of the road and highways. They were all bad. There wasn't a bit of black road in town. Mud, why parts you would have to go several miles at a stretch in low gear, but that was the first bus."

"In those days there weren't too many horses. A man had a driving horse and of course some had better than others. I guess its according, the buggy and the horse which he had probably corresponded more or less with the money he had in the bank, but some drove nice horses and some just scrub. But, oxen soon began to disappear. In 1913, we, the farm where I lived, we used oxen, but that was the last of my using oxen. And then, of course in those days, by 1900, mowing machines had just about come in. The small farmers still mowed with a scythe and his grain he cut with a cradle."

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



History Trivia Question: What five governors of Connecticut were born and raised in Lebanon? See page 3 for the answer.



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