



WILLARD NEWS



The Newsletter of the Willard Family Association of America, Inc.

100th REUNION - GREAT SUCCESS



The 100th reunion of the Willard Family Association of America took place at the Devans Common in Devans, Massachusetts on October 17, 18 & 19, 2008.

Friday evening, a social hour and dinner were held at the Springhill Suites, headquarters for the reunion. A delicious buffet was enjoyed by all. Following the meal, Richard Willard, Director, gave a talk outlining the history of the Association. He brought along many items from the Willard Archives that were on display for people to view. He also brought the Willard banner, seen in the above photo, which most people had never seen before.

Saturday morning was the annual business meeting, presided over by President Judy Hendy. The Association is in good financial shape. From January 1 thru October 12, 2008, income was \$16,516.00 and expenses were \$5,441.02. We have \$115,525.83 in investments and \$35,714.74 in bank accounts. Since we are having reunions later in the fall, it was decided to put out the newsletter the first of the year and early summer. As a consequence, there was only one newsletter in 2008, Vol. 41 No. 1. The website is very active getting hits from the European Union and twenty-two other countries around the world.

After the meeting, we all traveled to the Fruitlands for lunch. When lunch was finished, we walked down the old farm road to the archeological dig of the remains of the Phinehas Willard Jr.'s farm. From the farm site you get a beautiful view of the countryside. At the time of the Willards you could see the river in the valley, now obscured by trees. A lady from Fruitlands described to us the workings of the farm and an insight to the area at the time.

After the tour, many people stayed and visited the various buildings and displays at Fruitlands while others traveled to Grafton to the Willard Clock Museum.

Sunday morning more than thirty people braved the frost-covered ground to board the bus to Boston.

Our first stop was the Old granary Burying Ground. We viewed the gravesite of the Rev. Samuel Willard. While there, we had time to view the graves of other notables of the time, including John Hancock. In keeping with the size of his signature on the Declaration of Independence, his gravestone is large.



Reverend Samuel Willard's Burial Site

We then headed for the Old South Meeting House. Rev. Samuel Willard was the Puritan Pastor whose sermons once resounded there. While there, an interpreter of Rev. Willard told of his dealings with Elizabeth Knapp and the evil that had entered her heart and eventually the Salem Witch Trials. Rev. Willard deeply shaped the history of the Old South Church.

continued on page 2



*Reverend Samuel Willard Interpreter and
13th Generation Kevin & Erin Willard*

We had lunch and shopping time at the Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall.

After lunch, we boarded the bus and headed to the Prudential Center. Here we boarded old military duck boats for a tour of Boston and the Charles River. While on the river, many people had the chance to drive the boat.

After leaving the duck boats, we again got back on the bus and headed to Bunker Hill Monument. The streets in the area of the monument are very narrow. The bus had a hard time maneuvering around, but we finally arrived at the monument site. He double-parked allowing people to get out and take pictures. It was late and the monument was closed.

We ended the day at the La Famiglia Giorgio restaurant, in the North End of Boston, for supper.

C. Ray Moore took pictures of the reunion and has them on his website www.tlcimages.com. Click on special events and then click on Willard. These are also on the WFA website, www.willardfamilyassn.org.

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

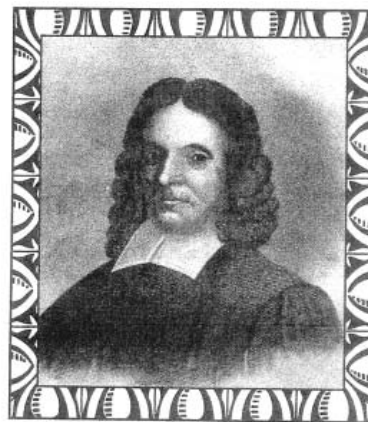
The architect for the Bunker Hill Monument was Solomon (6) Willard, 1783-1861, son of Deacon William Willard and Katherine Wilder, in the Samuel (2) line.

In front of the monument is a statue of Col. William Prescott. Col. Prescott was the brother-in-law of Loyalist Abijah Willard. Abijah was advising General Gage of the Redcoat's side of the battle that day. When General Gage spotted Col. Prescott in his spyglass he asked Abijah if Prescott would fight. Abijah replied that "I cannot answer for his men, but Prescott will fight you to the gates of Hell". Abijah Willard (of the Henry 2 line) had married William Prescott's sister, Elizabeth Prescott. She died before the American Revolution broke out. Abijah took his family to New Brunswick about 1779, where he died in 1789. Abijah is WFA number 79.

A book about Solomon Willard and the monument is available for free at Google Books "Memoir of Solomon Willard" by William Willder Wheildon, Bunker Hill Monument Association, enter bunker hill monument Solomon Willard in the search box to find and download it. Also, there is a wikipedia article about William Prescott at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Prescott.

THE REVEREND SAMUEL WILLARD

A Brief Account of a Puritan Pastor's Dealings with Witchcraft.



The Rev. Samuel Willard, minister of
Old South Church, 1678 to 1707

In 1671, in the town of Groton in Massachusetts Bay, a teenaged girl was seen mumbling to herself, walking clumsily through the small frontier community. When approached by her family and neighbors, Elizabeth Knapp shrugged off their concerns, making excuses for her odd behavior.

The Reverend Samuel Willard witnessed his house servant Elizabeth's outbursts of violent shrieks and uncontrolled laughter. Puritan clergyman and theologian, Willard had arrived in Groton some 8 years earlier to serve a substitute for the ailing minister, and, upon the minister's death, accepted the full-time position of pastor.

Married to a minister's daughter and father to several children, Willard was a respected member of the community. He was a fine man who had produced a fine Puritan family. He was devoted to the church and its tenets, and believed strongly in the marriage of church and state. His life was vastly different from his servant Elizabeth's and, as he looked out on this poor child, he feared that evil had entered into her heart.

In the coming weeks, the teenager grew worse and her outbursts had become more frequent and violent. She claimed that the devil visited her in the form of a black dog and encouraged her to murder her family. When Willard was summoned to her bedside, she lashed at him with profanity and anger. But, in her moments of clarity, she wept, begging for prayer and forgiveness for the accusations she made against the innocent.

It was clear that Elizabeth was suffering. Her body stiffened into odd positions and her tongue stretched from her mouth as a reptile. Elizabeth blamed these diabolical afflictions on a good woman who lived nearby. But the townspeople of Groton could

not be persuaded that witchcraft was afoot and their devout minister would not be swayed by the trickery of the devil. Without reliable evidence, Willard chose to seek Elizabeth's redemption through private council rather than pursue a trial with the magistrate.

Willard's last notes on the matter say that Elizabeth confessed that the devil had deluded her. She had been discontent with her status and lured by the devil's false promises. She is mentioned again in the public record when she happily married three years later.

For Samuel Willard, however, this was not the last he was to hear of witches. During King Phillip's War, he escaped Groton after a fierce attack on the town to live with family in Charlestown. Willard was invited to serve with the Reverend Thomas Thatcher at the Third Church of Boston (Old South Church). He was installed in March of 1678 and became the sole pastor upon Thatcher's death. His position in this prestigious Boston church thrust him into the opposition between Puritan orthodoxy and resurgent Anglicanism.

Fourteen years later, Willard was swept up in the Salem witchcraft crisis of 1692. Several members of his congregation at Old South were appointed to the royal governor's special commission on witchcraft. Other parishioners stood accused. Willard was called upon to examine some of the afflicted.

He was drafted to sign a petition from Boston's clergy in support of the court's proceedings, only to withdraw his support a month later. Having seen the repercussions of witchcraft accusations firsthand, Willard was critical of the trials. He was deeply saddened by the chaos in Salem and feared presumptive evidence was leading the innocent to the gallows. At the height of the hysterics, one woman accused Willard himself, but the court immediately dismissed her claims.

An anonymous pamphlet, *Some Miscellany Observations on our Present Debate Respecting Witchcrafts*, believed by many to be penned by Willard, was published in Philadelphia. This fictitious dialogue between Boston and Salem highlights the rampant misuse of spectral evidence. In this work, Boston pleads to Salem to require a full confession and accounts from two clear-minded witnesses before conviction.

Following the trials, Willard spoke out publically that the devil had succeeded in deluding the accusers rather than corrupting those who stood accused. He warned his congregation and the people of Salem, "But you must bear your own blame, which is due you for yielding to the temptation".

On January 14, 1796, on a day of fasting, the Reverend Samuel Willard walked down the aisle of Old South Church passing Salem witch judge Samuel Sewall in the front pew. He took from Sewall's hand a folded note and proceeded to the pulpit.

Following opening prayers, the minister signaled to Sewall to stand. Then in a weighty silence, Willard read aloud Sewall's apology.

For the Old South Church, redemption had begun. Life in Boston began to settle into its bustling rhythms. Willard became vice president of Harvard University, making the difficult trip between Cambridge and Boston several times a week so that he could continue to serve Old South Church. And, he was the minister who baptized Benjamin Franklin. But history will always remember Samuel Willard as the good Puritan who saved young Elizabeth from the devil.

The above was taken from *The Dial*, Fall 2008, a publication of the Old South Meeting House.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

On May 18, 2008, the Willard House & Clock Museum was marked by the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Colonists as the State Regent's Project, of State Regent Gail E. Terry. John R. Stephens, Director of the Willard House & Clock Museum, was instrumental in the process of marking this historic colonial site. The marker reads:

**In Recognition Of The
Birthplace And Original Workshop
Of The Willard Clockmakers
Placed By Massachusetts Daughters
Of The American Colonists
May 18, 2008**

Rick Willard named Connecticut Small Business Champion of 2008. Rick, a Director of the Willard Family Association of America, has been named the 2008 Solveras/NFIB Small Business Champion for Connecticut. He owns Griswold, Willard & Strong LLC, in Wethersfield and Rocky Hill.

"A Certain Cure for the White Swelling Take one quart of Ry meal, one lb. of fresh butter, and mix them together and put it over a slow fier and let it simmer with the yaler of 12 eggs until it becomes an ointment. Then oint the place and spread flannel on it and repeat it every hour and it will make a cure of in the course of 24 hours."

The above was written in fading ink in a very old book owned by Wallace & Mary Willard of Roxie, Mississippi. The other handwritten entries in the book date from 1820 or so.

On a recent Antiques Road Show program a clock, shown by a lady from Massachusetts who purchased it from a yard sale for \$8.00, was featured. The clock was a Simon Willard, c1823, lighthouse style clock. Even though the clock did not have the original globe, hands were missing from the face, weights were missing and two feet were not original, it was valued at \$75,000 to \$100,000.

THOSE REMARKABLE PIONEERS

On a warm spring morning, May 3, 1802, at Sterling, Massachusetts, Jonathon Willard (WFA 688), 22 years old, married Nancy Atkins, a buxom lass from Boston Town. They must have traveled almost at once to Windsor County, Vermont, where lived some of Jonathan's relatives, for there in the birth records of that county are the names of their four children, Elijah, Willis, Anna and William.

When Elijah was about 14 years old, Illinois was on the eve of statehood and government owned land, rich and easily cultivated, could be had for \$1.25 an acre. So, early in 1818, Jonathan and Nancy packed all their possessions into three horse-drawn wagons and with Elijah and Willis each in charge of a wagon, they with Anna and little William in the third, led the way. Plodding over country roads they finally reached Pittsburgh, where they obtained two flat-bottomed boats onto which they loaded wagons, horses and household goods. When they had poled the boats nearly to the mouth of the Ohio river, happy that the journey was about over, the boat loaded with farm tools, a large portion of household goods and two of the teams burned to the water's edge.

Later, exhausted and almost penniless, they landed on the Missouri shore of the Mississippi, and then struggling northward, probably by land, they at last reached Cape Girardeau where, already ill with typhoid fever, Jonathan died.

Leaving that very unfriendly settlement, Nancy and her four children found their way to Jonesboro, Union County, in southern Illinois, a little settlement of not more than six log cabins. There kindly folk provided the family with a one-room log cabin, having a dirt floor and a fireplace. With a pitifully small assortment of household equipment they began a new life. One piece was a lap-desk that had been passed down from the days of the first Willards to land in America. (This very desk skillfully restored to perfection is now treasured by one of Nancy's descendants.)

Elijah, now the man of the family, got a job driving oxen to haul logs from the "Mississippi bottoms" to the Jonesboro settlement. So destitute was the family that his first day's pay of 50 cents went to buy corn meal, which the hungry children ate before Nancy could cook it. This growing boy, bare-headed and barefooted, walked the 20 miles each day. Little by little, penny by penny, he saved and bought that small cabin and two acres of land. Later he became a helper in the village store and not many years passed before he had earned the respect of all Union County as a young man who was capable, reliable, energetic and trustworthy. It surprised no one when he and his two younger brothers, Willis and William, established the mercantile house of "Willard & Co," which for the next 50 years was a most honored place of business.

In June 1843, William died of tuberculosis and several years later, that pillar of strength, Elijah died of the same disease. This left Willis in full control of "Willard & Co." and other

extensive real estate holdings which in time made him one of the wealthiest men in Illinois.

About 13 years before this, Willis had married Frances Webb, daughter of Col. Henry L. Webb of the famous Webb family of Wethersfield, Connecticut. They continued to live with Mother Nancy Willard in the somewhat enlarged cabin until their little daughter, Mary Ann, was about 2 years old.

By that time, Willis had finished, across the way, a larger and more comfortable house with six rooms and six fireplaces. The very first cook-stove in that community was shipped to him from Pittsburgh to Willard's Landing. Pure water for cooking and drinking came from a mile away hauled on ox-drawn drag sleds. Huge rain barrels, dug out from giant sections of trees, were set beneath roof edges, running water, primitive style. But with all these newer conveniences in Willis' new home, "Mother Willard" as everyone lovingly called her, clung to the old log cabin where she so heroically had cared for her family, nursed them through illnesses and from which she finally saw two sons buried.

When Mother Willard was about 50 years of age, only Anna was left at home. Then it was that this young daughter, barely in her middle teens, became the bride of Winstead Davie, another youthful pioneer known for his integrity, energy and prudence. Having been born a cripple did not deter him from making the most of his abilities. His first venture, several years before, had been teaching school in Tennessee near Dover, his home-town. By the time he was 20 he found himself in the employ of a Dover firm. In 1820, he was sent by this firm with a stock of goods to Jonesboro, Illinois, a journey of about 200 miles by water along the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers.

Once there he proceeded to set up store in a log structure which became the site of a thriving business for 37 years. In time, he became one of the wealthiest men in Illinois. Fortuitously his arrival in Jonesboro coincided with that of his future bride, Anna Willard. On a Sunday afternoon in Mother Willard's log cabin, September 19, 1824, Winstead Davie married Anna, only sister of those well-known, future businessmen of "Willard & Co.". One can well imagine the good-natured banter among the young guests when someone remarked that the Clerk of the Court who signed the marriage license for Winstead was Winstead Davie himself.

The day following they began housekeeping in the house Winstead had purchased from the ancestor of one of our helpful members. In this home they lived the rest of their lives and here were born 10 children, only 5 of whom reached maturity. After almost 30 years of marriage, Winstead Davie granted to the Illinois Central R.R. a right of way through his land east of Jonesboro on the condition that a station be constructed on the land and be given the name Anna. This was done and in 1853 Winstead Davie founded the town of Anna, Illinois, in honor of Anna Willard Davie. Four years later he transferred his place of business from Jonesboro to Anna and then built, with the help of his son Daniel, the first steam-mill in Anna. But Anna and Winstead continued to live in their original home in Jonesboro, enjoying their last years together after his retirement in 1874 in his 78th year.

**WILLARD FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
185 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02420-2126**

Membership dues for Calendar Year 2009

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership
(spouse and minor children) | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership | \$250.00 |

Make your check payable to *Willard Family Association of America, Inc.* and mail to the Willard Family Association, 185 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02420-2126. If you wish to receive a membership card, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

E-mail address _____

If you have not already done so, please tell us your connection to the Willards.

NECROLOGY 2008

Kathleen Cooper Lane, Life #216
Seal Beach, California
Katherine B. Irely, Life #301
Amherst, Massachusetts
Ernest L. Willard, Sunnyvale California
Irene Thorn, Life #263
Milton, Massachusetts
Peggy Rice Grosser, Kerrville, Texas
Emma E. Woodrow Willard
Lake Forest, California
Richard Forest Willard
Putney, Vermont
Kenneth Leslie Willard
Pittsford, New York
Reginald Theodore Weber, Life #257
Glendale, Arizona
James Willard Wolfe
Ormand Beach, Florida
Margaret Templer-Carter, Life #583
Grant's Pass, Oregon
John Howard Willard, Life #244
Winchester, Ontario
Gertrude Willard, Winchester, Ontario
Albina A. Willard, Life #311
Royal Oak, Michigan

WILLARD ITEMS FOR SALE



Coverlets: \$50.00 plus postage of \$9.00
Tote Bags are \$30.00 plus postage of \$3.00
Pillows: \$25.00 plus postage of \$3.00 (limited supply)
Henry 2 Books: \$55.00 plus postage of \$10.00
Reprint of "History of the Willard Family Association of America" by Stephen F. Willard, Jr. (The Blue Book): \$6.00
New colored Coat of Arms suitable for framing: \$29.95
Limited supply of old style: \$14.95
Make check payable to the **Willard Family Association** for the above items and mail to:
Catherine A. Willard, WFA Treasurer, P.O. Box 591, Athol, MA 01331-0591
Book "Grains of Rice... with an occasional dash of salt". \$20.00 plus \$5.00 postage. Contact – Joella Groser Schultz, 1200 E. Silvertree Dr., Tuscon, AZ 85718

It was also in 1874 that Mother Nancy Willard died. She had continued to live with a helper in the old log cabin for which so many years ago her son, Elijah, had saved his pennies. Though blind for 20 years, she could move about the place she knew so well and with gentle fingertips recognize her great grandchildren. And so, "Mother Willard", aged 99 years, 10 months and five days, left behind in Jonesboro many who mourned for her, that dear mother and valued friend.

The above was furnished by Catherine & Ronald Starenko. Catherine is a descendant of Jonathan. The following pictures are of Anna Willard Davie and Winstead Davie. The oil portraits were given to Catherine by her grandmother.



WFA SCHOLARSHIPS

The WFA is accepting applications to the Arlan D. Willard Memorial Scholarship to be awarded in 2009. The following guidelines will apply to those submitting the applications:

1. The applicant or one of their parents or grandparents must be a paid WFA member for at least one year. Life members are always eligible.
2. Requests for application must be addressed to Mrs. Lois A. Cooley, Chair, Education Committee, 1460 Pleasant Street, Barre, MA 01005.
3. Final deadline for complete forms is April 1, 2009.
4. Only high school graduates who will be attending college the first semester in the same year will be considered.
5. Please Note: Confirmation of acceptance at college must be received no later than July 1, 2009. Scholarships will be announced at the WFA Annual Meeting.

Application form is included in the newsletter.

2009 REUNION

The fall reunion, scheduled for October, is to be held in Texas. The focus of the reunion will be the Willard Cemetery, east of Winnsboro, Wood County, Texas. The Willard Cemetery has about 160 graves and most are related in some way or another. The cemetery is a Texas Historical Cemetery.

Details will be forthcoming in the summer newsletter.

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Julia (Judy) C. Hendy
PO Box 142, Sandwich, MA 02563-0142
Tel. 508:888-0777 juliahendy@cs.com

VICE PRESIDENT/CHR. ARLAN D. WILLARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Lois A. Cooley
1460 Pleasant St., Barre, MA 01005
Tel. 978:355-2367 mark.cooley@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT/WEBMASTER

Rodney E. Willard
1633 Garden ST., Redlands, CA 92373
Tel. 909:798-2586 rwillard@WillardFamilyAssn.org

VICE PRESIDENT/COMPUTOR ARCHIVIST

Karen E. Willard
15215 Tubbs Road, Buckley, WA 98321
Tel. 360:897-9545 kwillard@WillardFamilyAssn.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Louise R. Sherman
47 Logan Ave., Orange, MA 01364-1013
Tel. 978:544-3790

TREASURER

Catherine (Kay) A. Willard
PO Box 591, Athol, MA 01331-0591
Tel: 978:249-4005 kawillard@verizon.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Barbara S. Willard
PO Box 340, So. Windham, CT 06266
Tel. 860:423-6999

DIRECTOR & MEMBERSHIP CHAIR/NECROLOGY

Marjorie W. Travis
185 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02420-2126
Tel. 781:862-3084 mwtravis@verizon.net

DIRECTOR & FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

John R. Stephens
c/o Willard House and Clock Museum
11 Willard St., Grafton, MA 01536
john@willardhouse.org

DIRECTOR & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dudley K. Willard
1200 Brush Creek, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Tel. 707:539-7315

DIRECTOR & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Richard Griswold Willard, Jr.
11 Pierson Green, Cromwell, CT 06416
Tel. 860:635-3235 rickwillard@usa.com

DIRECTOR

Eric H. Willard
PO Box 612110 South Chestnut St., Wauregan, CT 06387

DIRECTOR & NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Elizabeth A. Swift & Robert W. Swift
119 Hebron Center Road Hebron, ME 04238
Tel. 207:966-1076 rws@megalink.net