



WILLARD NEWS



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

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

SACO MAINE, 2004

By William L. Willard, President

On August 20th, 2004 the beautiful Down east town of Saco Maine welcomed members of the Willard Family Association of America for their 96th annual reunion. Headquarters for this year's reunion was the Hampton Inn in Saco.

We continued our new feature of a Hospitality suite where attendees could gather between scheduled events. This proved to be very well received and was often utilized. Hopefully we will be able to continue this feature at future reunions.

Formalities began with registration and a social hour where old friendships were renewed. At 7:00 PM we all sat down to a wonderful choice of fresh Maine lobster or New York strip steak. We used a local caterer [Norman's Cake and Catering] whose food was excellent and very tasty.

After dinner the group was treated to a wonderful talk by Charles Butler, a member of the Saco-Biddeford Historical Society. Mr. Butler talked about how the Willard's were involved with the early settlement of the area. Rev. Samuel Willard (# 52 in the 1915 Willard Genealogy) was ordained at Biddeford Maine in 1730. His Cousin Samuel Willard (# 52a in the 1915 Willard Genealogy) a cordwainer by trade, was another early settler to the area. Both raised large families. At this period in history Maine was part of Massachusetts.



After Mr. Butler's talk some of us returned to the Hospitality suite for more socializing and catching up on family news.

On Saturday morning, the formal annual meeting began with a briefing of the past year's happenings and the state of the organization as a whole. Annual reports were given by the President, the Newsletter Editor, the Secretary, Historian, Webmaster and the Treasurer (by Bill Willard). Motions were made to accept these reports which were carried unanimously.

During "new business," 3rd. Vice President Julia Hendy opened discussion on the new Bylaws, copies of which were mailed out with the Spring Newsletter. The new Bylaws were written to bring the association more inline with the 21st. Century. A motion was made by members attending to accept the new Bylaws as written. The motion was carried unanimously. At the 2005 annual reunion we will be voting on the new Constitution. A very well done to the Bylaws Committee headed by Alan Spooner and Judy Hendy.

After the annual meeting Karen Willard, the WFA Computer Archivist gave a wonderful talk on using computer technology while working on your family genealogy. Afterwards many complimented Karen on a wonderful; job well done.

Next on the Agenda was a light buffet lunch by the same caterer which again was excellent.

We had planned an afternoon boat ride along the Maine coast but unfortunately one of the engines on the boat had broken down so the trip

had to be cancelled.

Everyone appeared to have a great time and we all look forward to next year's reunion at Charlestown, New Hampshire.

A Personal Note:

This will be the last newsletter during my Presidency. For the past 3 and ½ years I have been President, Historian and helped my wife Barbara with the newsletter. Because of my health and other personal reasons I am forced to step down as President 6 months early. I am not a quitter but feel that because of a variety of health reasons it would be much better to have someone else handle the Presidency. I will remain as Historian and without the responsibilities of President I will be able to spend more time reorganizing the archives and library. I do want to extend a very special thank you to Karen Willard, our Computer Archivist, for helping out with the Historian's responsibilities while I was President.

My main goal as President was to help the association move into the 21st. Century including computerization. The WFA is well on its way now and should continue to grow with the times. For several years now we have had our own web page thanks to our 4th Vice President and Webmaster Rodney Willard. This allows anyone with a computer the ability to contact us at any time at <http://www.willardfamilyassn.org/>

Thanks again to all of you for your support over the past few years and if you have a genealogical related question, I can be contacted directly at Willard-family-assoc@snet.net. I hope all of you have a wonderful New Year!