

DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR

NEWSLETTER

Volume 35, Number 3

Established in 1983

Spring 2018

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR SPRING PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON, APRIL 7, 2018

Thirty DFAW members and friends, including out-of-state residents Cynthia Coy of Williston, Vermont; Dwight and Mary Fitch of Townsend, Massachusetts; and Naomi Lacasse of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, trekked to the Wapping Community Church in South Windsor on Saturday, April 7 for our annual Spring Program and Luncheon. During the registration/coffee hour, attendees purchased DFAW merchandise from the sales table run by Nadine Lester, browsed the DFAW Cousin Finder notebooks and photo albums shared by Registrar Olivia Patch and the scrapbooks on Windsor's "Daughter Towns" assembled by Joan Clapp, and made donations for the door prize drawing featuring a spring-themed basket.



At 10:30, President Richard Roberts welcomed members and then introduced our speaker, Dr. Cornelia Dayton (left) from the University of Connecticut History Department, whose talk was entitled "Madness, Mayhem, and Murder in Early Windsor." Dr. Dayton presented an overview of how seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth century New Englanders perceived and responded to "madness", followed by two case studies relating to Windsor, one of which was that of Selah Sheldon, charged in 1791 with the murder of his infant son (see page 3).

Maneeley's Caterer, Rye Street, South Windsor catered the luncheon which included: Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings (Italian and Ranch), Penne Marinara with Grated Cheese on the side, Swedish Meatballs, Grilled Chicken with Lemon Butter Sauce, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables Mediterranean, and Dinner Rolls and Butter. Dessert and beverages were also provided.



During a period of announcements, Registrar Olivia Patch presented Registrar and Cousin Exchange reports (see page 11) and Genealogist Ed Strickland gave an update on the DFAW genealogical database. Although Board Member Joan Clapp had prepared a PowerPoint on East Windsor to coincide with that town's 250th Anniversary, she was unable to give the presentation due to technical difficulties. It will be re-scheduled for a future meeting. Our apologies go out to Joan as well as to those in attendance who were looking forward to the presentation. Attendees did enjoy the display Joan prepared relating to South Windsor's anniversary (left).



Thanks are extended to all who contributed to making the day a success including Crawford Westbrook for helping with room set-up, Olivia Patch for organizing the spring basket door prize, Ruth Shapleigh-Brown for handling on-site check-in, Nadine Lester for covering the sales table, and Olivia, Crawford, Nadine, Joan, along with Paul Osborn for clean-up.

TREKKING ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Richard C. Roberts

This spring there was much excitement about Meghan Markle, a commoner, an American, and a person of mixed race preparing to marry the person sixth in line of succession to the British throne. An interesting fact that did not make it into most news media accounts was that Prince Harry (and his brother, Prince William) also have some American ancestry; they descend from a number of early New England families including two Founders of Ancient Windsor.

On September 27, 1997, following her death, their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, was made an honorary member of DFAW by vote of those present at our Annual Meeting. The resolution read in part:

WHEREAS, Diana, Princess of Wales is descended from Thomas Ford and Samuel Allen, Founders of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, Diana, Princess of Wales, is related to over 25 million living Americans through her great-grandmother, Frances Ellen Work Burke Roche, and

WHEREAS, through her charitable work, Diana, Princess of Wales, has become well known throughout the United States and the world, and has strengthened the ties of Anglo-American friendship....

Princess Diana was the fourth great-granddaughter of Dr. Joseph Strong, born 10 March 1770 in Coventry, Connecticut, who was a first cousin of Nathan Hale, the patriot spy. As Donna Siemiatkoski wrote in the Spring/Summer 1997 of the *Newsletter*, "Dr. Strong and Nathan Hale shared grandparents Joseph Strong Jr. and Elizabeth Strong, who were second cousins, great-grandchildren of John Strong and Abigail Ford, through Thomas² Strong and Joseph³ Strong and Jedediah² Strong and Preserved³ Strong, respectively." "Joseph³ Strong Sr. married Sarah Allen, daughter of Nehemiah² Allen and granddaughter of Samuel Allen, another founder of Windsor."

Over the years, in addition to Princess Diana, DFAW has granted honorary membership to:

- Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth, for whom the Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter, Connecticut DAR is named. Abigail was the daughter of William Wolcott and Abigail Abbott, and wife of Oliver Ellsworth. She managed the household which supported Oliver Ellsworth and nurtured nine children, of which all who matured and contributed significantly to the development of the town, state, and nation. She descended from Founders Henry Wolcott, Matthew Grant, and John Porter.
- Oliver Ellsworth, who served both Connecticut and the United States in the legislative, executive,

and judicial branches of government in many capacities, including Senator, Chief Justice, and minister to France; and who was one of Connecticut's three delegates to the Constitutional Convention and helped to prepare the final draft of the Constitution as a member of the Committee on Detail. He descended from three of Windsor's founding families: Holcomb, Grant, and Palmer.

- Carrie Marshall Kendrick, a "living repository" and resource for the genealogical records of Windsor, especially for the Poquonock families of Phelps, Marshall, and Griswold. She enhanced the lives of many of her neighbors and kinsmen by developing their genealogies for and with them and deposited her life's work with the Windsor Historical Society for use by future generations. She descended from Founders William Phelps, Samuel Marshall, David Wilcox, Edward Griswold, and probably others.
- Henry Reed Stiles, author of *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor Connecticut*, who descended from eleven of the Founders of Ancient Windsor and whose work DFAW seeks to build upon.
- James Chaffee Loomis, Hezekiah Bradley Loomis, Osbert Burr Loomis, Abigail Sarah Loomis (Mrs. H Sydney Hayden), and John Mason Loomis who founded the Loomis Chaffee School "that some good may come to posterity from the harvest...of our lives;" and who were descended from Joseph Loomis and at least eight other Founders of Ancient Windsor.

The "Honorary Member" designation is awarded posthumously to individuals with lineal descent from a Founder who in their lifetime made significant contributions to the settlement of Windsor, the state, the nation, or the world at large. The designation is made through a resolution prepared by the Board of Directors and adopted by the membership at a Spring or Fall meeting.

It has been many years since DFAW has memorialized an individual or individuals through honorary membership, but as we approach the 35th anniversary of our founding, the 385th anniversary of the first English settlement at what is now Windsor, and East Windsor's 250th Anniversary, it seems appropriate to consider making an award this year. Perhaps you have a potential candidate in mind. It might be someone prominent such as General and President Ulysses S. Grant, patriot Nathan Hale, Governor Roger Wolcott (see page 7) or the Rev. Jonathan Edwards. However, it could be a lesser-known individual. You are invited to send your suggestions to DFAW1633@Yahoo.com.



A CASE OF MURDER AND MADNESS IN WINDSOR

Richard C. Roberts

[This article is based in part on Dr. Cornelia Dayton's presentation "Madness, Mayhem, and Murder in Early Windsor" at DFAW's Spring Meeting on April 7. Although her presentation included an expanded overview of how early New Englanders perceived and responded to "madness" in the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and an additional case study, what follows focuses on the 1791 Selah Sheldon murder case and incorporates additional source material. RCRJ]

In its May 16, 1791 edition, the *Connecticut Courant* reported:

"Last Monday morning, the following horrible deed was perpetrated at Windsor, by Selah Sheldon, the father of three children, two sons and a daughter, the youngest aged sixteen months (*Connecticut Courant* May 16, 1791, p. 3)."

Much of the background behind the tale of madness and murder reported by the *Courant* is found in the manuscript notes of Charles Chauncey, King's Attorney for Connecticut in 1776 and a judge of the Superior Court from 1785 to 1793. Although there were no court stenographers or transcripts of testimony at the time of the murder, Judge Chauncey's notes (held by the Yale Division of Archives and Manuscripts) indicate that prior to 1786, Selah Sheldon was described by those testifying in court as "as sociable [a] young man as any;" that he "managed his business [and money] well;" and that he was "kind & tender to his Family;" a "man of good reputation;" "a regular man;" and an "active kind good man."

However, after moving from Windsor to Suffield in late 1786, he was "taken Crazy". He was often seen as being in a delirious state; when asked questions, he would not answer; he was restless and would not sit down to eat. He talked to himself a lot. On one occasion he ran out of the house and had to be caught. On another he flung his Bible into the fire. He would take up sticks as if to strike someone.

The fall of 1787 was a turning point. One day he jumped into a well and emerged bloody, with his head bruised. Soon thereafter, he said that he had thought "there were three or four people beckoning to him to come to them in the Well" and that the well was "A fine place." Although initially his reasoning seemed to be briefly restored, some testified that after this, "he never seemed to be the man he used to be." His memory was "gone;" he "managed his Business poorly," and he was often "amiss for Liquor" (and very talkative).

On occasions between 1786 and early 1791 Sheldon was reported to have said "that he was haunted to kill his Children." He would say to his children "what Misery you are in." He whispered to his oldest boy, "can I endure to see you in such Torment?" He muttered, "well I will do it;" then: "I can't, I can't."

The Sheldons moved back to Windsor in the late summer of 1788, taking up residence at the home of his wife Ame's father, Deacon Samuel Drake, south of Windsor center. Once he came near to a neighbor's house at midnight and "crowed like a Rooster." Alexander Wolcott

(probably Dr. Alexander Wolcott, son of Gov. Roger Wolcott) reported that "his Countenance expressed as deep melancholy & Distress as I ever saw." A few days before the murder he "looked Wild" and was "shattered & irregular." Precautions were taken, including a watch in which people were designated to sit with him day and night, and Selah's wife, Ame, would send for neighbors to come and disarm or speak with Selah.

However, the precautions came to naught. As described in the *Connecticut Courant*, on May 9, 1791:

Taking the opportunity when his wife and her father were withdrawn a few rods from the house, leaving the eldest in the bed the youngest in the cradle and the second sitting at its foot, he came with an axe, and lying the head of his youngest child over the side of the cradle, and after two or three strokes on its neck, as appeared by observation, cut its throat in the most awful manner. The second child in her fright ran with the tidings to her mother, who hastening into the house found her husband holding the weapon of death over the eldest son whom he had dragged from the bed to the floor -- seizing instantly the axe she prevented the uplifted stroke. A jury was called who pronounced the babe to be murdered. The unnatural father was immediately taken into custody, and was permitted to attend the remains of the slaughtered babe to the meeting-house, where a Sermon adapted to the occasion was delivered by the Rev. Henry A. Rowland, from Ecclel., ix. 3. *The heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.* He was afterwards sent on by authority to be committed to the common goal to await his trial (*Connecticut Courant* May 16, 1791, p. 3)."

Later, Sheldon told his jailer about the events of May 9, stating that he was using his axe while out-of-doors and that he "was then tempted by the Vapours to kill himself but he got over that... And [soon] concluded that killing [the] Child would do." In court, the jailer testified that "he did not conduct like any Crazy man I ever saw -- nor like any rational one I ever saw."

On Tuesday, 6 September 1791 a Grand Jury found that "Selah Sheldon of Windsor ... not having the fear of God before his eyes ... on the Ninth day of May last past at said Windsor with force ... feloniously, willfully and of his malice of thought made an assault on and upon Samuel Sheldon an Infant Child of the said Selah of the age of about Sixteen months..." and determined that Samuel did

"Murder the said Samuel against the Peace of this State and contrary to the Statute Law of this State.... (HCSC)"

Selah was brought to trial on September 14, 1791. The *Connecticut Courant* reported: "Last Wednesday Selah Sheldon, of Windsor, was tried before the Superior Court, for the murder of his infant child. The trial lasted all day, and the cause was finally submitted to the Jury without argument, who soon found a verdict for the prisoner. There was no doubt that Sheldon killed the child, but it was fully proved that he was at the time, as he had before been, *insane* (*Connecticut Courant* September 19, 1791, p. 3).

The Selah Sheldon case helped set legal precedent in Connecticut. In October 1793 the General Assembly passed "An Act for Ordering and disposing of Lunaticks, and other Insane Persons, who are dangerous, and unfit to go at large," perhaps innovative for its time. By 1821 *The Public Statute Laws of the State of Connecticut* included "An Act Providing for the Care and Government of Idiots, Lunatics, and Spendthrifts."

The tragedy surrounding Selah Sheldon's family did not end in 1791. What later became of Selah and when and where he died are currently unknown. However, on 17 May 1809 his wife, Ame, sold four acres of land to Selah Sheldon (her son) and Rebecca Westland (her daughter) "on Land of Benj^{am} Allyn South on Land of Samuel Drake North on land of Job Loomis and to extend so far East as to contain four acres and bounding East on my own Land said parcel of Land being the westerly end of my home lot (WiLR v. 23, p. 141).

On 9 December 1816 Austin Westland petitioned the Hartford County Court stating "That Ame Sheldon of said Windsor is possessed of considerable property in said Windsor and that the said Ame Sheldon is naturally wanting of understanding and is wholly incompetent to manage her own affairs to take care of her property or herself and that by reason of her idiocy or distraction her property is like to be wholly spent and herself reduced to poverty." He filed a similar petition on that date stating that "Selah Sheldon is naturally wanting of understanding and is wholly incompetent to manage his own affairs, to take care of his property or himself and that by reason of his idiocy..." In response the Court appointed Oliver Mather as Conservator of both Ame Sheldon and Selah Sheldon and authorized the sale of land to cover their debts (HCCT). On 20 December of that year Oliver Mather,

quit claimed land to Austin Westland (WiLR v. 26, p. 252).

Ame Sheldon, described as a widow at the time of her death, drowned herself at Windsor on 17 May 1817, not long after the 26th anniversary of the murder. Oliver Mather and Austin Westland, both of Windsor, were appointed administrators of her estate. Oliver Mather is identified as her conservator, for which services he was owed \$341.30 by the estate (HCCT).

On 17 January 1818 "the judge of the Court of Probate for the district of Hartford" "on application of Oliver Mather Esq administrator of the Estate of Amy Shelden late of Windsor decst moved for an order of distribution of said Amy's Estate whereupon the said Judge made order for a distribution of said Estate." At that time there were only two living "children of said decst viz Selah Sheldon son of said Amy & Rebecca Westland.... (HCCT)"

Three months later the *Connecticut Courant* reported, "Missing, Thursday night the 26th of March, a man by the name of Selah Sheldon, supposed to be drowned in Connecticut river, his hat being found near the water. Whoever shall find the body of the said Selah and send word to Austin Westland, in Windsor, shall be handsomely rewarded." (*Connecticut Courant* April 21, 1818, p. 4; April 28, p. 1). The June 2 issue of the *Courant* included the following notice: "The body of Mr. Selah Sheldon, who was drowned at Windsor about two months since, was found and taken out of Connecticut River, opposite this City, on Wednesday last." (*Connecticut Courant* June 2, 1818, p. 3)

Ame's probate records show that between 17 January 1818 and 31 August 1818, the date of final distribution, "Selah Shelden son of said Amy dyed & the said Rebecca Westland is the sole & only heir to the Estate of her Brother Said Selah Shelden...." This, and the fact that her headstone identifies Ame as a widow make it clear that Selah, Sr. died before her and that it was their son, Selah, who drowned on 26 March 1818.

It has been suggested that mental illness may have run in the family. A Benajah Kent of Suffield (quite possibly the Benajah born 1 August 1746 in Suffield, which would make him the first cousin of both Selah and Amy), testified that "Some of the Family were Crazy ever since I can remember -- Grandmother Phelps [was] so and her Father too; and one of her Children."

Genealogical Summary

Generation One

1. SELAH⁴ SHELDON, son of Jonathan³ Sheldon and Sarah Kent, was born circa 1753. He married his first cousin, Ame/Amy Drake, daughter of Samuel Drake and Amy Kent, on 24 January 1782 at the First Church, Windsor; the marriage was performed by the Rev. David S. Rowland.^{1,2,3} Information concerning his death is presently unknown, but he died prior to his wife, Ame, who was a widow at the time of her death in 1817.

AME DRAKE was born on 7 July 1755⁵ or 7 July 1756 at Windsor, Connecticut.⁶ In December 1816 she was found to be "wanting of understanding and ... wholly incompetent to manage her own affairs. She "drowned herself" in the Connecticut River on 17 May 1817 "ae 62.^{7,21}" and was buried at Palisado Cem., Windsor, Connecticut. Her headstone inscription reads: Mrs Amy Sheldon/widow of Mr Selah Sheldon/died May 17, 1817/AE62.^{7,8}

Children of Selah⁴ Sheldon and Amy Drake were as follows:

- 2 i. SELAH⁵ SHELDON was born circa 1784. He drowned in the Connecticut River on 26 March 1818.⁹
- + 3 ii. REBECCA SHELDON was born circa 1787. She married Austin Westland, son of Amos Westland and Mary Browne.
- 4 iii. SAMUEL SHELDON was born circa November 1789. He died on 9 May 1791, murdered by his father, "ae. 18 mo."^{11,9}

Generation Two

3. REBECCA⁵ SHELDON (*Selah*⁴) was born circa 1787. She married Austin Westland, son of Amos Westland and Mary Browne,⁹ prior to 1806 (birth of first child). She died on 6 November 1856 "age 69 yrs."^{9,10} She was buried at Palisado Cem., Windsor, Connecticut; her headstone inscription reads: Rebecca Sheldon / wife of Austin Westland / died / Nov 6, 1856/age 69 yrs.¹⁰

At the time of the 1850 census, Rebecca was 63 years old and living in Windsor in the household of Jerome and Amelia Alexander, her daughter and son-in-law.

Rebecca's will is dated 2 August 1834. It reads:

Know all Men by these presents that I Rebecca Westland of Windsor Hartford County and State of Connecticut of lawful age and sound and disposing memory do make this my last Will & Testament viz.

I give devise & bequest all my estate both real & personal to my five children viz. William F. Westland, Elisabeth T Westland, Julia Ann Westland, Caroline Amanda, & Catharine Amelia Westland share & share alike to them and their heirs forever, subject however to the following reservations ~ Whereas the said Julia Caroline & Catharine are all under the age of eighteen & need more assistance, I hereby constitute my whole estate a single fund to educate and support all of said last named persons viz Julia Caroline and Catharine until they shall respectively arrive at the age of Eighteen ~ And when all of said five children arrive at the age of Eighteen then my Estate aforesaid shall be equally divided between my five children as soon as practicable ~

And I hereby appoint Gurdon Loomis of Loomis my sole Executor of this my last will and testament ~

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this second day of August 1834 in the city of Hartford ~

On 1 December 1856 "the above will was presented & approved" by Richard H. Phelps, Judge. On 4 February 1857

"Personally appeared William R. Cone to me known to be one of the witnesses whose names are subscribed to the within will as one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and made solom oath, that he saw Rebecca Westland sign & seal the within instrument, and heard her publish and declare the same to be her last Will and Testament, and that she was then according to his best judgment of sound & disposing mind & that according to his best knowledge and belief the s^d testatrix declared the same to be her last will and testament in his presence, and in the presence of Samuel H. and Henry L. Ellsworth whose names are subscribed to said will as witnesses ~ and that he with said Parsons and Ellsworth subscribed their names together as witnesses to the execution of said will in the presence of said testatrix and in the presence of each other.

Before me

William N. Watson

Justice of the Peace

On 4 February 1857 it was recorded by Horace Bower, Register.¹¹

AUSTIN WESTLAND was born circa 1787. He died on 7 January 1826 "age 39 yrs."^{9,10,12} or on 9 January 1826 "AE 39."¹³ He was buried at Palisado Cem., Windsor, Connecticut.¹⁰ On 10 February 1826 Rebecca Westland, the widow, was appointed Administratrix.⁹ On 2 April 1836 distribution made to the five surviving children: Elizabeth T., William D. Julia A., Caroline A., and Catherine A.⁹ Stiles gives his name as "Orson".⁴

Children of Rebecca² Sheldon and Austin Westland were as follows:

- 5 i. JAMES R.³ WESTLAND was born circa 1806. He died on 9 or 10 July 1816, recorded as "Austin, his s. d. July 9, 1816, AE 10" in the church records¹³ and as July 10, 1816 in the Hale Collection, which mis-identifies his parents as "Martin & Rebecca"²⁰. *Windsor Cem Insc.* misreads the death date as July 20, 1836.¹⁰ He was buried at Palisado Cem., Windsor, Connecticut.¹⁰
- 6 ii. AUSTIN O. WESTLAND was born circa 1808.¹⁰ He died in November 1825, recorded as "Orlo, s. Austin, d. Nov. [], 1825, AE 17" in the church records¹² and "Austin O / died Nov 9, 1825 / aged 17 years" in *Windsor Cem Insc.*¹⁰ He was buried at Palisado Cem.¹⁰
- 7 iii. WILLIAM D. WESTLAND was born circa 1811. He married Mary Ann Alderman on 9 November 1834. The Windsor church entry reads: "William D., m. Mary Ann Alderman, Oct. 9*, 1834, by Rev. Henry A. Rowland *(First written '22nd')^{14,10,15} He died on 5 February 1876 "aged 65"¹⁰ and was buried at Palisado Cem.¹⁰
 - MARY ANN ALDERMAN was born circa 1811. She died on 22 February 1900 "aged 89"¹⁰ and was buried at Palisado Cem.¹⁰
- 8 iv. JULIA ANN WESTLAND was born circa 1813.
- 9 v. ELIZABETH T. WESTLAND was born circa 1814. She died on 3 March 1861 "age 47 years."¹⁰ or 4 March 1861 "AE 47"¹⁶ and was buried at Palisado Cem.¹⁰
- 10 vi. MARY B. WESTLAND was born circa 1816-17. The Hale Collection shows, "Mary B., daughter of Martin (sic.) and Rebecca, died Apr. 11, 1817, age 1 mo."²⁰ In the church records the death is shown as "Austin,

- his child, d. [May 17], 1817, AE about 1 y.^{13"} *Windsor Cem Insc.* gives "Mary R / died April 4, 1840 / AE 4 months¹⁰ and was buried at Palisado Cem.¹⁰
- 11 vii. EMILY WESTLAND was born circa 1823.¹⁰ She died on 1 January 1826.¹⁰ She died on 2 January 1826 "AE 3^{12"} and was buried at Palisado Cem.¹⁰
- 12 viii. CAROLINE AMANDA WESTLAND was born on 25 February 1825.^{17, 21} She married William W. Billings on 18 July 1847 at Windsor, Connecticut. She died on 23 March 1891^{17, 21} and was buried at Palisado Cem.^{17, 21}
- 13 ix. CATHERINE AMELIA WESTLAND was born on 25 February 1825.¹⁸ She married Jerome Bonaparte Alexander, son of John Alexander and Sophia Hayes, in May 1843.¹⁹ She died on 6 September 1896.^{18, 21} (Stiles says she died on 12 February 1887 ae. 61.)^{19"} She was buried at Palisado Cem.^{18, 21}
- JEROME BONAPARTE ALEXANDER was born on 1 July 1824.¹⁹ He died on 23 March 1855 "aged 31^{19, 18, 21"} and was buried at Palisado Cem.^{18, 21}

Endnotes for Genealogical Summary

1. Henry Reed Stiles, *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor: Including East Windsor, South Windsor, Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, and Ellington. 1635-1891* (Hartford, CT: Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1891-92), v. 2, p. 680. Hereinafter cited as *Ancient Windsor*.
2. Frank B. Gay, *The Descendants of John Drake of Windsor, Connecticut* (Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company, 1933), p. 86. Hereinafter cited as *Drake*.
3. Windsor First Church Records: v. 3, p. 224, as recorded in the Church Records Index, Connecticut State Library. Hereinafter cited as Windsor 1st. Ch. Rec.
4. Stiles, *Ancient Windsor*, v. 2, p. 181.
5. Gay, *Drake*, pp. 55, 86.
6. Windsor, CT Vital Records: v. 2, p. 319, as recorded in the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records, Connecticut State Library. Hereinafter cited as Windsor, CT VRs.
7. *Cemetery Inscriptions In Windsor, Connecticut* (1929; reprint Windsor CT: Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter, NSDAR, 2000), p. 66. Hereinafter cited as *Windsor Cem. Insc.*
8. Charles R. Hale Collection, Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, State Archives Record Group 72:1: cem. 128-1, p. 40, Connecticut State Library. Hereinafter cited as Hale Collection.
9. Gay, *Drake*, p. 87.
10. *Windsor Cem. Insc.*, p. 74.
11. "Rebecca Westland," Connecticut. Probate Court (Windsor District), Vol. 1, p. 2. Ancestry.com. Connecticut Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015, online, Ancestry.com, accessed 2 May 2018. Original data: Connecticut County, District and Probate Courts, LDS microfilm #1316306.
12. Windsor 1st. Ch. Rec.: p. 106.
13. Windsor 1st. Ch. Rec.: p. 102.
14. Stiles, *Ancient Windsor*, v. 2, p. 789.
15. Windsor 1st. Ch. Rec.: p. 240.
16. Windsor 1st. Ch. Rec.: p. 124.
17. *Windsor Cem. Insc.*, p. 15.
18. *Windsor Cem. Insc.*, p. 6.
19. Stiles, *Ancient Windsor*, v. 2, p. 13.
20. Hale Collection, cem. 128-1, p 36.
21. Hale Collection, cem. 128-1, p. 44.

Bibliography

- Ancestry.com. Connecticut Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. Online Ancestry.com.
- Cemetery Inscriptions In Windsor, Connecticut*. 1929. Reprint Windsor CT: Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter, NSDAR, 2000.
- Charles R. Hale Collection, Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Connecticut State Library.
- Connecticut Courant* (1791-1837) [database on-line]. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.
- Gay, Frank B. *The Descendants of John Drake of Windsor, Connecticut* (Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company, 1933).
- RG 003, Hartford County County Court. Papers by Subject: Conservators and Guardians, Box 538, Files "Ame Sheldon" and "Selah Sheldon", State Archives, Connecticut State Library.
- RG 003, Hartford County Superior Court. Files, February 1791-September 1792. Drawer 21, "State of Connecticut vs. Selah Sheldon Indictment," State Archives, Connecticut State Library.
- Stiles, Henry Reed. *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor: Including East Windsor, South Windsor, Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, and Ellington. 1635-1891* (Hartford, CT: Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1891-92).
- Windsor, Connecticut Vital Records, as recorded in the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records, Connecticut State Library.
- Windsor First Church Records, as recorded in the Church Records Index, Connecticut State Library.

NOTABLE DESCENDANTS: GOVERNOR ROGER WOLCOTT

Richard C. Roberts

Roger Wolcott was born at Windsor, Connecticut on 28 January 1678 (WiVR v. MG; v 1, p. 38) or 4 January 1679 (Stiles v. 2, p. 801), the youngest of the ten children of Capt. Simon Wolcott and his second wife, Martha Pitkin, and the grandson of Windsor Founder Henry Wolcott. Henry Wolcott had immigrated to Dorchester, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, on the *Mary and John* in 1630 and removed with other Founders to what became Windsor in 1636 (GMB v. III, p. 2049).

The Windsor land records show that as of 11 January 1640/1 Henry Wolcott's holdings included the following parcels among many others: "twenty-four acres over the Great River; a parcel over the Great River twenty rods in breadth and three miles in length; a parcel over the Great River ten rods in breadth and three miles in length; eighteen acres over the Great River; ... [and] fifty acres over the Great River. A later purchase from Thomas Marshfield's overseers included "a parcel over the Great River, thirteen rods in breadth and three miles in length (WiLR 42 as recorded in GMB v. III, pp. 249-50.) In his will dated 30 May 1655 and proved 4 October 1655, Henry left to "Simon my youngest son all my land on the easterly side of the Great River and my lot at Arramummett (GMB v. III, p. 2050)" "Arramummett" probably refers to the lands once occupied by the River Tribe of Native Americans led by sachem Arramemet, who historian Henry Stiles indicates as having resided "on the high ground, at the upper end of Hartford Meadow, opposite to the mouth of the Podunk River (Stiles, v. 1, p. 109).

Simon Wolcott originally lived opposite his father on the "meadow road" between Windsor and Hartford (this was probably on the "Arrammett" tract), but in 1661 removed to Simsbury (Stiles, v. 2, p. 801). During King Philip's War, 1675-6, he returned to Windsor. In 1680 he settled on 200 acres on the east side of the Connecticut River in what is now South Windsor (Stiles v. 2, p. 801*). Roger Wolcott later recalled that "few families were settled there. We had neither Minister or school, by which it hath come to pass that I never was a Scholar in any school a day in my life; my parents took care and pains to learn their children, and were successful with the rest, but not with me, by reason of my extreme dulness to learn (Stiles, v. 2, p. 802)."

Simon Wolcott died on 11 September 1687 (Stiles, v. 2, p. 801; WiVR v. 1, p. 52), when Roger was eight. Roger later wrote, "We were now a widow and six fatherless children; the buildings unfinished, the land uncleared, the estate much in debt, but we never wanted." Two years later, in 1689, Martha married as his second wife Daniel Clarke (Stiles, v. 2, pp. 153, 801; WiVR v. 1, pp. 42, 44), whose first wife, Mary Newberry, had died on 29 August 1688 (Stiles, v. 2, p. 153). Roger moved with his mother to the Clarke homestead on the west side of the river. By 1690 he took an interest in learning and "soon learned to read English and write (Stiles, v. 2, p. 803)."

In 1694, at age 15, Roger was apprenticed to a clothier and on 2 January 1699 went into business on his own (Stiles, v. 2, p. 803). On 3 December 3, 1702 he married Sarah Drake (Stiles, v. 2, pp. 179, 807; Desc. John Drake, pp. 26, 46; WiVR v. 1, p. 63), born 10 May 1686, daughter of Lt. Job and Elizabeth (Clarke) Drake (Stiles, v. 2, pp. 179, 807; Desc. John Drake, pp. 26, 46; WiVR v. Col. D, p 51, v. 1, p. 9); Sarah was the granddaughter of Roger's stepfather, Daniel Clarke, and was Roger's first cousin, one time removed.

The couple settled on the east side of the Connecticut River. Roger wrote that "our mutual affection made everything easie and delightfull; in a few years my buildings were up and my farm made profitable (Stiles, v. 2, p. 804)." Their home (at right) was built in 1704, the year of the "Deerfield Massacre." and Henry Stiles indicates that the walls of the front room "were covered with a painting descriptive of that scene (Stiles, v. 2, p. 807).



Roger Wolcott's grandfather, Founder Henry Wolcott, and his stepfather, Daniel Clarke, had both held many public offices. Roger soon followed their examples of public service. In 1707, he was elected as a Windsor selectman. He was admitted to the bar in 1708, and in 1709 he was elected Deputy (Representative) from Windsor to Connecticut's General Assembly and served as clerk of the lower house from 1710 to 1711. He became a justice of the peace in 1710. Wolcott was chosen an Assistant in 1714. In 1721, he was appointed as a judge of the Hartford County County Court and in 1732 appointed one of the judges of the Superior Court (Stiles, v. 2, p. 804).

Meanwhile, Roger Wolcott played key roles in the Connecticut Colony's military. In 1711 he served as Commissary of the Connecticut Stores for the Quebec Expedition during Queen Anne's War. He was appointed Captain in the Connecticut militia in 1722. In 1739 he became Colonel of Connecticut's First Regiment (Stiles, v. 2, p. 804).

In 1741, Wolcott was chosen Deputy Governor under Governor Jonathan Law, and, according to the practice of the time, was concurrently appointed Chief Justice of Connecticut's Superior Court (Stiles, v. 2, p. 804).

In 1745, Roger Wolcott received a commission as Major General in command of the Connecticut troops during King George's War. He was 67 years old, and, in his own words, "the oldest man in the army except the Rev^d Mr. Moody" of York, Maine. Still, he was second in command of the united New England forces under Gen. William Pepperrell. Wolcott led the Connecticut troops in the siege of Louisburg in Cape Breton. He later wrote, "After we had continued the siege 49 days, the City of Louisburg was surrendered on Capitulation and we with great joyfulness entered it (Stiles, v. 2, p. 804)." Wolcott returned to Connecticut by 1746.

Roger's wife, Sarah, died on 21 January 1747. He wrote the following poem in her memory (Stiles, v. 2, p. 805):

The bird of Paradise upon the wings	Did never open but my day would rise;
Of flaming Seraphs mounts; she sits and sings	So long my constant help to give relief,
And sees as she is seen he God above,	Double my comfort and divide my grief;
And in the arms of Jesus drowns in love.	So long my living wife, of thee bereaven,
Me, ah! bereaved! me now left alone, --	I have no friend so good unless in Heaven
My lovely turtle ever to bemoan;	I'll not forget thy kindness nor thy charms,
So long my morning whose beaming eyes	But love thee dead that long lay in my arms.

The 1740s represented the height of a religious evangelical movement known as the "First Great Awakening." Jonathan Edwards, son of the Rev. Timothy Edwards, minister of Windsor's Second Society, was a leader in the Awakening, describing grace as creating a "new light" on sin and atonement. He and other "New Lights" emphasized salvation through a new birth of the heart, the mending of ways, and the confession of sins and embraced worship with more spirit and fervor. The Awakening led not only to divisions within congregations of the Congregational Church but to political factions within the colony. Although Roger Wolcott was a member of Timothy Edwards' church, both he and Law sided with the "Old Lights", viewing the revival movement as a potential threat to established authority ("Roger Wolcott").

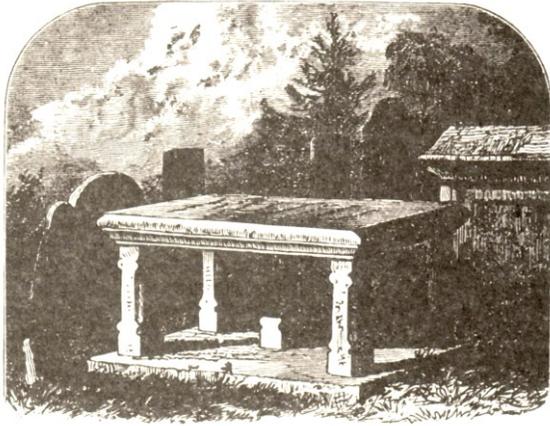
Governor Jonathan Law died on 6 November 1750 (Hale Cem. 213-1, p. 137), one month after the end of the General Assembly session. The General Assembly reconvened briefly to elect Roger Wolcott as Governor and Thomas Fitch as Deputy Governor to serve until the next regular election in May 1751, at which time both were re-elected ("Roger Wolcott").

On November 24, 1752 a 200-ton Spanish ship, the *Santa Elena y Senor San Joseph* ran into rocks in New London harbor, causing heavy damage. The ship's cargo, which included gold doubloons, silver, and indigo, worth some \$400,000 in Spanish dollars (about \$3,800,000 in today's money) was off-loaded and stored in the New London customs house and in a basement strong-room at the house of Gurdon Saltonstall, Jr., who had been appointed by the Governor and Company as a special agent to protect the property. Over the next year, portions of the cargo mysteriously disappeared. Although much of the blame was perhaps due to what Wolcott termed "the indolence, inadequateness, and inattention of the Spanish supercargo [the officer in charge of the ship's cargo]," Connecticut residents feared they would be taxed for repayment. Some suspected Wolcott and Saltonstall of collusion. Some accused the Governor of providing insufficient protection for the cargo and of not focusing enough on solving the thefts. His mishandling of the situation was a major factor in losing the 1754 election to Thomas Fitch ("Roger Wolcott").

Wolcott was 76 years old when he was defeated. He also lost the 1755 election. Although ultimately exonerated of the charges of theft of goods from the *Santa Elena y Senor San Joseph*, his political career was over. He spent the much of the remainder of his life on his farm, dividing his time between devotion, reading, cultivating his land, and enjoying the company of his friends (Stiles v. 2, p. 806).

Beyond his political and military activities, Roger Wolcott was a poet. *Poetical Meditations, Being the Improvement of Some Vacant Hours*, published in 1725, was the first book of poetry published in Connecticut. After his retirement from public office, he continued to write, publishing church-related pamphlets. In 1761 he published a "Letter to the Freemen of Connecticut" in the *Connecticut Gazette* (New London).

He spent his final years with his daughter, Elizabeth Newberry (the widow of Capt. Roger Newberry) in Windsor. He died there on May 17, 1767 at the age of 89 (Stiles, v. 2, p. 807; Desc. John Drake, p. 43). His pastor, the Rev. Joseph Perry of the Second Church of Windsor (later the First Church of East Windsor; now the First Congregational Church of South Windsor), described him as "a kind husband, a good father, and a compassionate master. He was a member of this church for a great many years; a steady professor of the Christian name, a constant and devout attendant on public worship and holy ordinances (Stiles v 2, pp. 806-7)."



Roger and Sarah are both buried in Windsor's Palisado Cemetery beneath an impressive table stone (at left). His inscription reads: "Here lyeth the Body / of the /Hon^{ble} Roger Wolcott Esq^r / of Windsor / who for several Years was / Governour of the Coloney / of Connecticut; And / died May 17th / Anno AEtatis 89 / Salutus 1767. / Earth's highest Station ends in 'here he lies', / And 'Dust to Dust' concludes her noblest Song (Stiles, v. 2, plate opposite p. 807)."

Windsor's Roger Wolcott School is named in his honor. Roger and Sarah also left a remarkable political legacy. Among their fifteen children were Oliver Wolcott (20 November 1726-1 December 1797), who signed the Declaration of Independence, served as Governor of Connecticut from 1796-1797, and who was the father of Oliver Wolcott, Junior (11 January 1760-1

June 1833), Governor of Connecticut from 1817-1827. Their daughter Ursula (30 October 1724-5 April 1788) married Matthew Griswold (25 March 1714-28 April 1799) who served as Governor from 1784-1786); they were the parents of Roger Griswold (21 May 1762-25 October 1812), Governor of Connecticut from 1811-1812.

*The quotes by Roger Wolcott are taken from his *Journal* as printed by Henry Stiles in *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut*. The original *Journal* is held by the Connecticut Historical Society.

Bibliography:

Bates, Albert C., ed. *The Wolcott Papers: Correspondence and Documents During Roger Wolcott's Governorship of the Colony of Connecticut, 1750-1754, With Some of Earlier Date*. Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, vol. XVI. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1916.

Online <https://archive.org/details/wolcottpaperscor00connrich>.

Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions, Connecticut State Library.

Gay, Frank B. *The Descendants of John Drake of Windsor, Connecticut*. Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company, 1933.

"Roger Wolcott, Governor of the Colon of Connecticut, 1750-1754." <http://museumofcthistory.org/2015/08/roger-wolcott/>.

Stiles, Henry R. *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut*.... Reprint. Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1976. See Volume II, pp. 802-807 for information on Wolcott's family, including a transcription of his "Journal".

Wolcott, Samuel. *Memorial of Henry Wolcott*. New York: Anson D.F. Randolph and Company, 1881. Pages 83-87 contain another version of Roger Wolcott's "Journal".

EAST WINDSOR'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



This year the Town of East Windsor is celebrating its 250th Anniversary. The Anniversary Committee has been working hard to plan nine months of events which began December 31, 2017 and which will continue to September 23, 2018. Selected upcoming events are listed below. For additional events, go to <http://ew250.com/>.

June 16	Food Truck Festival/Revolutionary War Reenactment/Encampment - Scout Hall
June 24	Rubber Duck and Cardboard Boat Race - Filter Beds
July 14	Touch-a-Truck - Warehouse Point Fire Department
July 15	Sundae Fun Day
August 4	East Windsor Day - Connecticut Trolley Museum
August 11	Historical Society Ice Cream Social - Museums on the Green
September 22	East Windsor Heritage Day. Activities will include fireworks, a cookout, and performances from local dancers and bands
September 22, 2:50 p.m.	East Windsor 250th Anniversary Parade - Main Street, Broad Brook
September 23	Burial of a new time capsule, to be opened in 50 years

Images of America; East Windsor, Connecticut (published by Arcadia Publishing for the East Windsor, Connecticut Historical Society) has numerous pages of photographs depicting the historical events and buildings of their past. It also provides a lot of information on many descendants of Windsor Founders and their contributions to the development of the town. It -- along with other East Windsor 250th merchandise -- is available from the East Windsor Historical Society at <http://ew250.com/merchandise/>.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Pamela L. Roberts, Membership Secretary

Greetings! We are aware of many members, both near and far, who have been impacted by weather patterns, storms, fires, violence, accidents, and deaths. We hope your lives have settled down a bit. Here are a few important updates.

Appreciation for data updates and a request:

Thank you to members who responded with updated contact information to assist in correcting lost data fields in our membership database this past winter. If you have not already sent your current email address and a preferred phone contact, please do. We will be moving forward with an online process for renewals and opportunity for you to self-update your profile with DFAW. Don't miss out on these new benefits of membership. We always appreciate address changes BEFORE we get returned snail mail with fees due. See contact information at the end of this article.

2018 Annual Dues update: a plea to renew if you have not sent in your 2018 dues.

Numbers of members do vary weekly with changes in status, deaths, and requests to add or remove folks. At print time, our working total annually paying members was 233. At this time the chart below represents the number and percent of households paid up through the years indicated. Thank you to those paid up. Reminders for the next DFAW membership year (2018-2019) will be distributed in August with payment due October 1, 2018.

Paid-up '18	Paid up to '17	Paid up to '16	Paid up to '15	Paid up to '14
179	28	13	9	4
~76 %	~12%	~6%	~4%	~2%

ACTION you may take if your last paid date on your address is a year earlier than 2018:

- If your label shows a "0/2017" in the first line after your membership number, you owe \$15 individual memberships or \$23 for dual 2018 renewals. Please remit.
- If your label shows a "0/2016", "0/2015" or "0/2014" your renewal is overdue. Your DFAW granted grace period for annual dues is past. Please pay 2018 dues and your DFAW member benefits will continue without interruption, with the "last paid" field changing to "0/2018".

We don't want to lose you as members, so please, send your checks made out to "DFAW" to :

Pamela Roberts, 596 Gurleyville Road, Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268-1408

Questions or concerns? Feel free to e-mail me at: DFAW1633@yahoo.com or call 860 428-2406.

DFAW SALES REMINDERS

DFAW TEE SHIRTS

By popular demand, we continue to offer our "tees" in two designs: the *DFAW* logo, and the Ship Motif. All shirts are in light gray, with a dark blue design. Sizes are Youth: XS (age 4-5), S (age 6-8), M (age 9-12) Adult: S, M, L, XL, and XXL, and the fabric is 100% cotton – pre-shrunk. The price is **\$12.00 per shirt, plus shipping & handling: i.e.,** please add **\$2.20** for one shirt; **\$4.75** for two shirts; **\$6.70** for three or four shirts, and **\$8.70** for five to seven shirts, mailed to one address.

MEMBERSHIP PIN WITH DFAW LOGO

Made of raised silver base metal, in the shape of our shield, the pin is one inch high, and bears the DFAW logo in dark blue on a white background. Suitable for men or women, this quality item is a great conversation starter. A handsome pin, to wear with pride! **\$5.00 (+\$1.50 p&h).....\$6.50**

NEW BOOKS

Some Descendants of William Buell.

Vol. 1., Generations 1-8 382 pages including index. **\$25.00* (+ 5.00 p&h).....\$30.00**

Vol. 2., Generations 8-14 318 pages including index. **\$20.00* (+ 5.00 p&h).....\$25.00**

Some Descendants of George Chappel.

174 pp. including index. **\$15.00* (+ \$5.00 p&h)....\$20.00**

For more items, please see the complete four-page catalog in the Summer 2017 Newsletter and on our Webpage at <http://www.ancientwindsor.org/sales.html>

Make checks payable to DFAW and send all sales orders to: DFAW – Sales, PO Box 39, Windsor, CT 06095.

(*Connecticut residents, please add 6.35% sales tax to your order exclusive of shipping cost. Thank you.)

HOLD THE DATES!

Saturday, September 22

East Windsor Heritage Day. Activities will include fireworks, a cookout, and performances from local dancers and bands.

Saturday September 22, 2:50 p.m.

East Windsor 250th Anniversary Parade - Main Street, Broad Brook

Saturday, September 29

DFAW Fall Program and Annual Meeting - Windsor Historical Society

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Olivia C. Patch, DFAW Registrar

Since the DFAW Annual Meeting last September, I have reviewed, okayed the documentation, and forwarded to our Genealogist Edwin Strickland 12 Lineage Forms. Most are recent, but some are from the past and needed more documentation.

COUSIN EXCHANGE REPORT

Olivia C. Patch

Since my report at our Annual Meeting last fall, three new cousins have signed up to participate in the Cousin Exchange. I am pleased that this group is still actively involved and a benefit to members of our society.

The following DFAW Founders still need "cousins" for the Exchange: John Bennett, Margaret (Barrett) (Huntington) Stoughton, Richard Birge, Thomas Cooper, William Gilbert, Nathan Gillett, John Hawkes, John Taylor, William Hill, Samuel Hubbard, William Hulbert, John Hurd, Roger Ludlow, Thomas Marshal, Elias Parkman, Frances (Clark) (Dewey) Phelps, Dr. Bray Rossiter, Richard Sexton, Aaron Starke, John Tilley, Michael Try, Richard Weller, and John Young.

DFAW COUSIN EXCHANGE

To participate in the Cousin Exchange and be put in touch with other "cousins" researching your DFAW lines, you must be a DFAW member. Return your completed form, including complete mailing address with ZIP code + 4, *and a self-addressed, stamped envelope* to Olivia Patch, DFAW Registrar, 83 Cedar Swamp Rd., Tolland, CT 06084. Once part of the Exchange, your name and the names of the Founders you are researching are "carried forward" across your years of DFAW membership. We hope this benefit of DFAW membership will be popular and rewarding!

-----CUT HERE-----

Cousin Exchange Permission Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP+4:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

DFAW Membership Number _____

I am interested in sharing with cousins descended from the following Founders:

I grant permission to give my name, address, and e-mail to others participating in the DFAW Cousin Exchange:

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Mail to: Olivia Patch, DFAW Registrar, 83 Cedar Swamp Rd., Tolland, CT 06084.



**DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS
OF ANCIENT WINDSOR, INC.**

Richard C. Roberts, Editor
P.O. Box 39
Windsor, CT 06095-0039

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO 5220

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DFAW Newsletter Vol. 35, No. 3, Spring 2018 © 2018 by the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, Inc. The DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 39, Windsor, CT 06095, is published quarterly in Windsor, CT by & for the members of DFAW. Submission deadlines: Fall, October 1; Winter, January 1; Spring, April 1; Summer, July 1 to DFAW1633@yahoo.com.

15th New England Regional Genealogical Conference

Family - a Link to the Past &



a Bridge to the Future

**Family - a Link to the Past &
a Bridge to the Future**

3-6 April 2019

Manchester, New Hampshire

Featuring over 70 genealogical experts and 100 informative lectures, workshops, the Ancestors Road Show, exhibits, Librarians Day, Tech Day, and popular Special Interest Groups. DFAW is a Participating Society.

REGISTRATION FOR NERGC 2019 BEGINS IN THE FALL

More information at www.NERGC.org

www.facebook.com/NERGC

<https://nergc.blogspot.com/>