



DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR ----- NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTINE ERMENC RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Christine Ermenc, who served as Executive Director of the Windsor Historical Society for the past 19 years, retired on February 28. During her tenure, the Society's focus shifted from programs that primarily served its members to a broad outreach, inspiring "public awareness and appreciation of the diverse peoples, places, and events that contribute to Windsor's evolving history." That has led to collaborations with many other organizations, including the Windsor Garden Club, the Windsor Art Center, the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum, the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead, and DFAW.

Since 2002, the Society has held annual tours of local historical houses. Other highlights of Christine's tenure include the installation of the permanent exhibit, "Bridging Centuries, Bridging Cultures" that tells Windsor's story over the past 400 years, displays treasures from the Windsor Historical Society's collections, and links the displays to additional learning experiences at the Society and other institutions. She also oversaw the renovation and re-interpretation of the Strong-

Howard House (formerly known as the Fyler House). The re-interpretation of the house has not only led to local, state, and national awards, but to visits by some 4,500 students and 6,500 walk-ins since 2015.

In her retirement Christine plans to do consulting work with the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and is considering starting a project involving storytelling with people in hospice.

During the retirement



DFAW members at the retirement reception.

reception DFAW President Richard Roberts presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Christine from DFAW "in recognition of her many years of outstanding service to DFAW and its members while serving as Executive Director of the Windsor Historical Society and with the grateful thanks of the Board of Directors." On behalf of the Board and the members of DFAW, thank you and best wishes, Christine!



DFAW Membership Chair Pam Roberts and member Sandy McGraw at Christine Ermenc's retirement reception.



DFAW President Richard Roberts presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Christine Ermenc



DFAW Board member Joan Clapp meets incoming Windsor Historical Director Douglas Shipman at the February 28 reception

TREKKING ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Richard C. Roberts

My wife Pam and I spent much of February sending out a DFAW First Class mailing which included requests for updated contact information (and in some cases dues reminders) and Spring Program announcements. This issue of the *Newsletter* was originally planned to come out in early March to serve as a reminder that our Spring Program and meeting featuring Mel Smith of the Connecticut State Library was coming up on Saturday, March 28.

On February 28 Pam and I, along with several other DFAW members and many, many Windsor residents attended a farewell reception for outgoing Windsor Historical Society Executive Director Christine Ermenc (see page 1). On March 2 the DFAW Board met at Grace Episcopal Church in Windsor. On March 6-9 Pam and I attended the American Athletic Conference's Women's Basketball Tournament at which over 10,000 fans were at the championship game as our UConn Huskies punched their way into the NCAA tournament.

What a difference a week makes.

First, the NCAA tournament, along with virtually all other sporting events, was cancelled. Then the Connecticut State Library, the Connecticut Historical Society, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' library, and the Windsor Historical Society all closed to the public. Connecticut's restaurants are closed except for take-out. Students are learning from home. Many Americans are working from home. Religious organizations are identifying new ways to offer worship opportunities. And we cancelled our Spring Program.

Meanwhile, while observing social distancing, your Board members continue to be hard at work. Pam Roberts, our Membership Secretary, has been very

busy verifying and updating our membership records (see page 9). Paul Osborn, our Treasurer, has implemented new financial software. Our Secretary/Webmaster Jenny Hawran has created a new, secure, DFAW website (see page 12). Although integration of these processes has taken longer than anticipated and was therefore not in place for renewals for the 2019-2020 membership year, we are making progress and plan to provide the options of submitting membership applications and paying dues online as soon as possible.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England to what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. Windsor has its own Plymouth Colony connections, tracing its claim to being Connecticut's first town to the erection of a trading post by a delegation from Plymouth in September 1633. In recognition of the *Mayflower's* historic voyage, we'll be including articles relating to Plymouth in the next several issues of the *Newsletter*. This issue includes an article on the monument in Windsor's Plymouth Meadow (see page 3). In addition, in recognition of National Women's History Month, it includes an article on Melville and Anna (Sutherland) Bissell (page 4). Anna was a pioneer in American corporate leadership, taking over management of the Bissell Corporation after Melville died.

Looking ahead, at this point we do not know whether we will be able to re-schedule a membership meeting between now and our planned September 26 Annual Meeting, but we will do our best to keep you posted. Meanwhile, stay well, stay safe and follow your local, regional, and national public health recommendations.



CALLING ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR EARLY TRIPS

Did you make the trek from Dorchester, Massachusetts to Windsor, Connecticut in 1983?

Were you on one of the 83 who took part in the May 1985 *Mary and John* tour of England or the 70 who went on *Mary and John II* in May 1988?

Were you one of the 37 who took DFAW's bus trip to Plymouth Plantation in September 1990?

As part of our Fall program, scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 at the Windsor Historical Society, we're planning to recognize those who participated in trips during DFAW's early years.

We're planning to include a display of photos and memories from those early events, and that afternoon we'll be showing a video taken during the second *Mary and John* tour.

If you have photos, newspaper articles that can be scanned, or personal memories of those events, please consider sharing them by sending them to president@DFAW.org.

THE UNVEILING OF WINDSOR'S PLYMOUTH COLONY MEMORIAL

On June 29, 1898 the Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution unveiled a boulder recognizing the first English settlement in Connecticut. Located on "The Island," elevated land in Plymouth Meadow on the Loomis Chaffee School campus, the monument remains an important tribute to Windsor's original Founders, the men from the Plymouth Colony who established a trading post near that site on September 26, 1633.



After searching for an appropriate stone, Jabez H. Hayden (1811-1902) located a dark granite boulder in West Hartford. It was inscribed by The Stephen Maslen Company, a monument and statutory business then located at 40 High Street, Hartford. In addition to producing conventional gravestones and placing stones for Civil War soldiers in various cemeteries under a state contract, the Maslen Company was involved in work on West Hartford's Civil War Monument; the Griffin A. Stedman Monument, Barry Square, Suffield; the Robert S. Steadman monument in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford; the Camp Field Civil War Monument, Campfield Avenue, Hartford; and the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery ("Petersburg Express") Monument on the State Capitol Grounds.

The inscription on the boulder reads:

This rock marks the first English settlement in Connecticut by members from Plymouth Colony 1633.
Dedicated by the Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, June 1898.

Prior to the unveiling, the many invited guests attended exercises in Windsor's Town Hall. The program included a piano solo by Arthur Allen, an invocation by the Rev. Roscoe Nelson of the First Church, a welcoming address by Chapter Regent Abigail Haywood Marcy Loomis (2 March 1843-26 October 1921), a response by State Regent Sara Thompson Kinney, and the reading by Miss Lulu Albee of a historical paper on the Plymouth Meadow settlement prepared by Jabez Hayden. After the performance of "For Home and Country" by a quartet, activities moved to Plymouth Meadow.

Initially covered by American and English flags, the boulder was unveiled by Sara Thompson Kinney. The Rev. F. W. Harriman, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Windsor, then delivered an oration in which he urged the DAR to erect monuments to those who fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and "any son of Windsor who may give his life in the present struggle for the liberty of Cuba" and to the Windsor settlers who arrived from Dorchester. (The later suggestion perhaps served as an inspiration for the erection of the Founders Monument on Palisado Green by the National Society, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims on the site of the first meetinghouse on May 30, 1930.) Miss Minnie Ellsworth read a poem, "Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in Connecticut," which was followed by the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee." The day's activities concluded with a reception/luncheon at Grace Episcopal Church.

Sources:

"Campfield Monument: Model Submitted by Stephen Maslen Accepted; Monument Will be Erected on Campfield Avenue in This City." *The Hartford Courant* October 24, 1899, p. 7. Online ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

"Daughters of the Revolution Will Honor the First English Settlers of Windsor." *Morning Journal and Courier* (New Haven, CT), June 25, 1898, p. 3. Online GenealogyBank.com.

"The Design Selected: Stephen Maslen Gets Contract for 'Heavies....'" *The Hartford Courant* January 11, 1902, p. 13. Online ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

"Memorial Stone at Windsor: D.A.R. to Mark the Spot Where First English Settlement Was Made." *New Haven Register* June 24, 1898, p. 11. Online GenealogyBank.com.

"Stephen Maslen: Death of Well Known Business Man Yesterday Afternoon." *The Hartford Courant*, May 29, 1909, p. 13. Online ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

"The Plymouth Colony: Memorial to First English Settlement in Connecticut." *The Hartford Courant*, June 30, 1898, p. 8. Online ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

"Two Fine Monuments: Stephen Maslen Corporation Has Recently Erected Them." *The Hartford Courant* October 30, 1905. Online ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

NOTABLE DESCENDANTS: MELVILLE REUBEN AND ANNA (SUTHERLAND) BISSELL

Richard C. Roberts

MELVILLE REUBEN⁷ BISSELL a descendant of Windsor Founder Quartermaster Thomas Bissell (Alpheus⁶, Harvey⁵, Isaac III⁴, Isaac II³, Lt. Isaac², Quartermaster Thomas¹), was born in Hartwick, Otsego Co., New York, 25 September 1843 (Nat. Cyc. v. 7, p. 63; Find A Grave, Memorial #8595795), son of Alpheus and Lydia (Brooks) Bissell (Nat. Cyc. v. 7, p. 63). The family moved to Racine, Wisconsin when he was about five years old and to Berlin, Wisconsin three years later. Melville attended public schools there and learned the baking trade (Nat. Cyc. v. 7, p. 63).

In 1862, the family moved again, this time to Kalamazoo, Michigan. There, at the age of 19, Melville joined his father in running a grocery store which Alpheus had established with a total capital of \$150. Soon thereafter they added a stock of crockery (Nat. Cyc. v. 7, p. 63).

In 1865 Melville married ANNA SUTHERLAND. She was born on December 2, 1846 in River John, Nova Scotia, one of 13 children of sea captain William Sutherland (27 October 1811- January 1907) and Eleanor (Putnam) Sutherland (1817-1853).



Melville and Anna had five children:

ANNA DOTELLE BISSELL, b. 11 December 1868; m. WILLIAM S. MCCAY 23 April 1890; divorced prior to 25 Nov 1924; d. 11 June 1958, South Pasadena, California; bur. Oakhill Cem., Grand Rapids (Find A Grave, Memorial #8595795).

LILLIE MAY BISSELL, b. 30 May 1871, Kalamazoo, Michigan; d. there 20 November 1878; bur. Oakhill Cem., Grand Rapids (Find A Grave, Memorial #86496927).

MELVILLE REUBEN BISSELL II, b. 7 April 1882, Grand Rapids; m. OLIVE E. BULKELEY; d. 20 December 1972, Grand Rapids; bur. Oakhill Cem., Grand Rapids (Find A Grave, Memorial #123339223).

HARVEY SUTHERLAND BISSELL, b. 22 October 1884; m. MARJORIE MCLACHLAN 19 December 1913; d. September 1972. He was the author of *Cruising with the Wanderlusters*, an account of his three-thousand mile voyage to the South Seas with his wife and baby daughter on their 80-foot sailing yacht.

IRVING JOY BISSELL, b. 12 January 1888, Grand Rapids; d. 14 May 1961, Grand Rapids; bur. Oakhill Cem., Grand Rapids (Find A Grave, Memorial #123339070).

About 1869 or 1870 the Bissells sold the store in Kalamazoo and opened a fine china and glassware store in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The 1870 census indicates that both Melville and his father, Alpheus were crockery dealers.

One story relates that Anna became frustrated with the amount of sawdust and straw – used as a packing material for the china and glassware -- that needed to be cleaned from the showroom carpet at the end of each business day (“Carpet”). Another story is that Melville was allergic to the dust (“Sweeping Beauty”). In any case, Melville devised a carpet sweeper -- a wooden box, open at the bottom, with a long handle and with rubber tires mounted on iron wheels connected to a roller on which brushes were mounted. The brush assembly fed dust from the carpets into a chamber that needed to be periodically emptied (“Carpet”).

Melville’s invention was a success. After obtaining a patent in September 1876, he and Anna began producing “Grand Rapids” carpet sweepers with walnut cases and gold leaf trim in a room above the store and selling them town to town, door to door from a buggy (“Carpet”). Local women produced the rollers as a home industry, using string to wind hog bristles onto rollers, attaching them with hot pitch, and then trimming them with scissors (“Sweeping Beauty”).

At the time of the 1880 census, Melville and Anna were enumerated in the same household as Melville’s parents. Alpheus’ occupation is shown as “Crockery Dealer”; Melville’s as “Carpet Sweeper Manf.”



In 1883 Melville Bissell organized a stock company with a paid-up capital of \$150,000 and opened a manufacturing plant. Although destroyed by fire on March 12, 1884, it was not only replaced, but eventually additional factories were opened in London, Paris, and Toronto.

Mr. Bissell was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for many years was a Sunday School superintendent. He died of pneumonia at his home in Grand Rapids on March 15, 1889 in the 45th year of his age and is buried in Oakhill Cemetery, Grand Rapids (Find A Grave, Memorial #8595795).

Rather than selling the business, Anna took control of the Bissell Corporation, becoming one of America's first female corporate chief executive officers and creating the largest organization of its kind in the world. She served as both President and CEO from 1889 through 1919 and remained chair until 1934. Under her leadership, the Bissell Corporation established new guidelines on trademarks and patents, and Bissell carpet sweepers expanded into the international market. According to the company's website, "Anna was known as a progressive executive, who showed concern for her employees, introducing innovative labor-relations policies, employee compensation, insurance, pension plans and paid sick leave long before these practices were widespread."



Anna Bissell was a charter member of the Ladies Literary Club, a life member of the Women's City Club, and an active member of Zonta, a female equivalent of Lions Clubs. She served on the board of the Clark Memorial Home, founded in 1906 as a home for retired Methodist ministers, and for many years she was the only woman member of the National Hardware Men's Association. She was the first woman trustee of the Grand Rapids Methodist Episcopal Church and was actively involved in Bissell House, a recreation and training program for Grand Rapids, Michigan youth and immigrant women. She served on the board of what was to become Blodgett Home for Children, an orphanage in Grand Rapids. She was also a generous philanthropist.

Anna Sutherland Bissell died on November 8, 1934, in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is buried in Oakhill Cemetery in Grand Rapids (Find A Grave, Memorial #123338471). In July 2016, a seven-foot bronze statue of her was unveiled outside the DeVos Place convention center in Grand Rapids as part of the city's Community Legends Project. Designed by Ann Hirsch, it was funded by the Peter Secchia family.

Today Bissell Home Care is a privately owned company that produces vacuum cleaners and other floor care products, and it manufactures and sells Woolite carpet cleaning products under license.

Sources:

1870 U.S. Census, Grand Rapids Ward 2, Kent Co., Michigan, MF M593-681; p. 291B.

1880 U.S. Census, Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Michigan, MF 588; p. 284D; ED 137.

"Anna Sutherland Bissell." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Sutherland_Bissell.

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"Carpet Sweeper History – Who Invented the Carpet Sweeper?" <http://www.vacuumcleanerhistory.com/vacuum-cleaner-development/carpet-sweeper-history/>.

"Fierce Flames: The Fiery Wipes Out Considerable Michigan Property." *Saginaw Courier-Herald*, March 13, 1884, p. 2. Online GenealogyBank.com.

Find A Grave, www.FindAGrave.com.

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"Sweeping Beauty." *Plain Dealer* (Cleveland, OH) October 15, 1976, p. 40. Online GenealogyBank.com.

"Sweeping Up Now Takes More Brain Than Brawn." *The Milwaukee Journal* October 17, 1962, p. 76. Online GenealogyBank.com.

DFAW HONORARY MEMBERS: SGT. DANIEL BISSELL

Richard C. Roberts

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 DFAW's Board of Directors and adopted by the membership at a Spring or Fall meeting.

At DFAW's Second Annual Founders Day Reunion on September 22, 1984, the Sgt. Daniel Bissell Ancient Jr. Fife and Drum Corps led a candlelight procession from the Founders Monument on Windsor's Palisado Green across the street to the First Church. DFAW honored the Corps with an honorary membership for their namesake and a proclamation citing their musical assistance to DFAW. The Corps had been founded in the fall of 1974 as a United States Bicentennial project sponsored by the Civitan Club of Windsor, CT, Inc.; it disbanded in 1986.

Sgt. Daniel⁶ Bissell VI (Daniel⁵, Daniel⁴, Daniel³, John², John¹) was born on 30 December 1754 at Windsor (now East Windsor), Connecticut, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Loomis) Bissell (Stiles, v. 2, p. 83; Loomis, p. 151; Windsor VR v. 2, p. 536) and baptized 5 January 1755 (Stiles, v. 2, p. 83). He died on 5 August 1824 in Richmond, Ontario Co., New York (pension file, pp. 3, 4, 6) and is buried in Allens Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Ontario Co., New York (Find A Grave, Memorial #9548118).

In March or April 1777, he enlisted from Windsor and served in Captain Abner Prior's Company, Colonel Philip B. Bradley's Regiment. He was subsequently transferred to David Strong's Company, Colonel Heman Swift's Second Connecticut Regiment, in which he served as Sergeant. He took part in the Battles of Germantown and Monmouth (pension file).

On 14 August 1781, according to his pension record, "at the request of and by the order of General Washington, the commander in chief" he enlisted a British Provincial Regiment in the Corps led by Benedict Arnold "with the view to be a spy". He became a quartermaster sergeant and remained in this service until September 1782, when he successfully returned to his own regiment and provided valuable information including detailed maps of the British positions. He was honorably discharged in June 1783.

On 10 June 1783 he became the recipient of a "badge of merit" and a certificate which read:

"I George Washington, commander in chief of the American Army &c. &c, &c to all to whom these presents shall come, sendeth greeting." It went on:

And whereas Sergeant Daniel Bissel of the Second Connecticut regiment, hath performed some important service within the immediate knowledge of the commander in Chief, in which his fidelity, perseverance and good sense were not only conspicuously manifested but his general line of conduct throughout a long course of service, having been not only unspotted but highly deserving of commendation, Now know ye therefore that the aforesaid Sergeant Bissell hath fully and truly deserved, and hath properly been invested with the honorary badge of military merit.... (Stiles, v. 1, p. 341; pension file, p. 13).

The Badge of Military Merit, of which only three are known to have been awarded, was the predecessor of today's Purple Heart. Sadly, both Bissell's original certificate and the badge were destroyed when his house burned in July 1813. However, he was ultimately allowed a pension based on his application executed May 29, 1818 (pension file, p. 2), at which time he was aged about 62 years and living in Richmond, Ontario Co., New York.

On 30 December 1789 he married Theoda Hurlbert (pension file, pp. 3, 6). Roger Bissell states that they were married in Randolph, Orange Co., Vermont. However, within depositions within the pension file, in 1838 Anne T. Phelps, then aged 73 and living in New York City, stated that Daniel and Theoda were married at her house in Windsor, Connecticut (pension file, p. 17).

Theoda was born ca. 1767 and was living in Genesco, Livingston County, New York on 24 September 1838 when she applied for a widow's pension based on her husband's service (pension file). In 1843 she was still living in Genesco. She died 14 June 1844 and is buried in Allens Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Ontario Co., New York (Find A Grave, Memorial #10711921). Stiles gives her name as Rhoda Hurlbert (Stiles, v. 2, p. 87). "Rhoda" was probably a misreading of "Theoda".

According to the pension file, Daniel and Theoda had nine children; only six were listed in *Some Descendants of Bissell*, which DFAW published in 2007. However, on his personal webpage Roger Bissell published "The Genealogy of Lieutenant Daniel Bissell IV," which includes information on all nine. Interestingly, Daniel and Theoda named all their sons Daniel. The children were:



- I. THEODA⁷ BISSELL was born 20 June 1791 at Randolph, Vermont; died 11 July 1791 at Randolph (R. Bissell).
- II. SOPHIA BISSELL, b. 20 June 1792 (Jones, p. 147) or 5 August 1792 at Randolph, Vermont (R. Bissell); d. 31 July 1870; bur. Forest Hill Cem., Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., Michigan (Find A Grave, Memorial #60527677). She m. JOHN E. BENTLEY. He was b. ca. 1794 and died 11 Mach 1849. He is buried in Free Church Cem., Washtenaw Co., Michigan (Find A Grave, Memorial #10191697). They had six children.
- III. DR. DANIEL HASKELL BISSELL, b. 21 September 1794 at Randolph, Vermont (R. Bissell); d. 3 November 1882 at Genesco, New York "aged 88 years"; bur. Temple Hill Cem., Genesco, Livingston Co., New York (Find A Grave, Memorial #76138872). He m. LUCY GROVESNOR 5 June 1828 at Lima, New York (R. Bissell). Lucy was b. 3 March 1798 at Mansfield, Connecticut, daughter of Ezra and Sarah Grosvenor (R. Bissell; Dimock, p. 88) and died 1 September 1868 at Genesco "aged 70 years;" bur. Temple Hill Cem., Genesco, Livingston Co., New York (Find A Grave, Memorial #76138873). Daniel H. Bissell was 43 years old when he deposed in support of his mother's pension application on 3 December 1838 (pension file, p. 4). He and Lucy had seven children.
- IV. DANIEL VOLTAIRE BISSELL, b. 28 June 1796 at Randolph, Vermont; d. 12 July 1845 in Oakland Co., Michigan. He m. 1) ELIZABETH CURTIS, daughter of Sylvester Curtis and Mary Johnson, in Ontario County, New York. Elizabeth was b. ca. 1818 and died 26 August 1841 at Oakland, Michigan. They had at least eight children. He m. 2) CHRISTEINA/CHASTINA/CHRISTINA HIGGINS 26 July 1844 at Pontiac, Michigan. After Daniel's death she m. 2) SIDNEY GILBERT, SR. on 30 September 1845 at Pontiac (R. Bissell).
- V. HULDAH BISSELL, b. 18 July 1798 (R. Bissell; Find A Grave Memorial #8123065) at Randolph, Vermont (R. Bissell); d. 10 August 1880 (R. Bissell; Find A Grave, Memorial #8123065); bur. Crooks Rd. Cem., Troy, Oakland Co., Michigan (Find A Grave, Memorial #8123065). She m. ALVAH BUTLER 4 April 1824 (R. Bissell). He was b. 19 January 1798 (R. Bissell; Find A Grave, Memorial #8123061) at Middletown Springs, Vermont (R. Bissell) and died 9 April 1888 (R. Bissell; Find A Grave, Memorial #8123061); bur. Crooks Rd. Cem., Troy, Oakland Co., Michigan (Find A Grave, Memorial #8123061). They had six children.
- VI. DR. DANIEL PEREZ BISSELL, b. 29 May 1802 (Stiles, v. 2, p. 87) or 27 May 1801 at Randolph, Vermont (R. Bissell) or 27 May 1802 ("Daniel P. Bissell"; photo of gravestone, Find A Grave, Memorial #167095477); d. 28 October 1874, Utica, Oneida Co., New York ("Daniel P. Bissell") or 29 October 1874 (photo of gravestone, Find A Grave, Memorial #167095477). He married MARY ANN DUTTON 22 September 1830 (R. Bissell). She was born 29 March 1807 (photo of gravestone, Find A Grave, Memorial #167115127) and died 6 December 1874 (photo of gravestone, Find A Grave, Memorial #167115127). They had three children.
- VII. DANIEL BARON BISSELL, b. 29 January 1803 at Randolph, Vermont (R. Bissell); d. 11 December 1866 (R. Bissell). He married CAROLINE N. BARTLETT 22 March 1836 (R. Bissell). They had seven children.
- VIII. COL. DANIEL WADSWORTH BISSELL, b. ca. 1804 at Randolph, Vermont (R. Bissell) or ca. 1806 (aged 14 in 1820 per pension file, p. 11); d. 19 May 1882 (R. Bissell; Find A Grave, Memorial #157826630); bur. Allens Hill Cem., Richmond, Ontario Co., New York (Find A Grave, Memorial #157826630). He married IRENE WASHBURN THAYER (R. Bissell). She d. 23 Nov 1883 at Clifton Springs, Ontario Co., New York and is bur. in Allens Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Ontario Co., New York (Find A Grave, Memorial #157835553). They had five children.
- IX. DANIEL LUCIUS BISSELL, b. 30 April 1808 (Jones, p. 147; R. Bissell) or 30 April 1809; d. 1873 (R. Bissell) or d. 1870 (Find A Grave, Memorial #76096234); bur. Green Mount Cem., Dansvile, Livingston Co., New York (Find A Grave, Memorial #76096234). He was aged 12 in 1820 (pension file, p. 11). He m. FRANCES EVELYN CHAPIN (Jones, p. 249; R. Bissell). They had four children.

Sources:

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Loomis, Elias. *Descendants of Joseph Loomis in America, and His Antecedents in the Old World*. Berea, OH: 1908.

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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.

Strickland, Edwin W. II., ed. *Some Descendants of Capt. John Bissell*. Windsor, CT: Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, 2007.

DFAW SALES REMINDERS

DFAW TEE SHIRTS



We continue to offer our "tees" in two designs: **(A)** the DFAW logo, and **(B)** 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.



(A.) The **DFAW logo** is a shield with four segments: one *grapevine*, from the three on the Connecticut State Seal, representing the three original settlements of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, and recalling the state motto: "He who has transplanted, sustains"; representative *ship*, which would have carried the

Founders to New England; the *palisado*, which encircled part of the early settlement in Windsor; portrayal of a *Founder*, trekking through the wilderness to the Connecticut Valley. **(B.)** the **ship motif** exemplifies the various ships that would have brought our ancestors to New England in the 1600s.

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**

BOOKS

Note: Items 4 – 5 were compiled by Donna Holt Siemiatkoski. Items 2-5 are spiral bound.

1. ***The Settlement of Windsor, Connecticut.***

By Kent C. L. Avery, Donna Holt Siemiatkoski and Robert Silliman.

REVISED 4TH EDITION, 2008. 31 pp.

\$4.00 (+\$2.00 p&h)...\$6.00

2. ***Cemetery Inscriptions in Windsor, Connecticut. Second Edition, 2000.***

By Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Contains information on every existing headstone in every cemetery in Windsor from 1644 to 1926. 225 pp. including Index.

\$35.00 (+\$7.00 p&h).....\$42.00

3. ***Daughter Towns of Windsor, Connecticut.***

By Homer W. Scott. Second Ed., Revised 2010. 90 pp. Indexed. Spiral Bound; soft cover. Traces the evolution of Windsor's "Daughter Towns," with references to the people who moved out to settle in and organize them. Based on the series of articles in the DFAW Newsletter but revised and added to for this collection.

\$15.00 (+\$4.00 p&h).....\$19.00

4. ***Resources for the Study of Windsor History.***

Includes a bibliography of Windsor-related resources, a list of repositories, and a list of family societies. Originally published in 1995, it has been updated by Richard C. Roberts. Second Ed., Revised 2013. 34 pp.

\$10.00 (+\$3.00 p&h)...\$13.00

5. ***Surnames in Seventeenth Century Windsor.***

Every surname in 17th Century Windsor, noting its earliest occurrence; alphabetical and chronological listings; sources. 48 pp.

\$10.00 (+\$3.00 p&h)...\$13.00

Send all orders c/o D.F.A.W. – Sales, P. O. Box 39, Windsor, CT 06095-0039

Please make checks payable to "DFAW Sales"

*** Connecticut Residents: Please add 6.35% Sales Tax to total order, incl. p.&h.**

Our next full catalog will appear in the August issue of the Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE
Pam Roberts, DFAW Membership Secretary

Membership Data and Benefits: For updates on the transition and integration of membership and financial data, refer to the “Trekking...” column on page 2. I appreciated all the updates and corrections that have arrived by email or mail. Currently we have 67% of our active members with confirmed, accurate email addresses, while in 2017 we had only 25% of active members with emails in their profiles. When you share your email, we keep it secure, using it only for DFAW purposes, with the long-range goal of accessing other member benefits and paying for dues and sales items online if you wish. If you use email and have not yet confirmed whether you wish the email added to your profile, please email membership@DFAW.org (our new membership address) and I will administratively add, confirm, or remove it. Perhaps we can eventually reach an even higher percent with digital access. We hope the result will be an increase in communication efficiency for our volunteer leaders and for members who choose online access. We intend to continue to offer the option of basic mailed communications to those who do not use email.

This membership report focuses on updates for the libraries and societies who receive and publicize our member meeting registration flyers and catalog current and back copies of our 12-page quarterly *Newsletter*. These collaborating societies and libraries invite you to visit their websites. Some have online and research services which you might be interested in accessing. The chart below points you toward 6 of our 20 partnering societies or libraries, representing different important depositories that may be of interest to our members as you work from home on your direct lines to DFAW Founders. I have summarized websites for your browsing and indicate whether they are offering assistance by staff during this time of local, state, and federal required closures. **The facilities are currently closed to the public.** Services available are summarized in the chart below based on information on their websites. I invite you check out these partners. Please do thank them for being a DFAW resource society or library, and do give feedback on the accuracy and usefulness of this information.

Name	My favorite link for browsing	Research help by staff
Windsor Historical Society windsorhistoricalsociety.org Windsor, CT	https://windsorhistoricalsociety.org/home/education/learning-at-home/	Email requests for assistance accepted at: info@WindsorHistoricalsociety.org . DFAW Genealogical Database access is on-site.
New England Historic Genealogical Society: AmericanAncestors.org Boston MA	Guest access and help: americanancestors.org/member-ship/guest-users	Members: access and staff help by phone, email, or videoconference. 888-296-3447 membership@nehgs.org .
Midwest Genealogy Center Contact: mymcpl.org Independence, MO	www.mymcpl.org/genealogy , or go to: Virtual Branch at: mymcpl.org/GoDigital	Email requests accepted at Virtual Branch 24/7. Use of some resources requires registration and a library card.
Connecticut State Library ctstatelibrary.org Hartford, CT	For a great AT HOME GUIDE: https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/ld.php?content_id=53117714	Call: 860-757-6500 Mon 9:30-4:30, Wed. & Fri., 9:30 to 1:30, or email at ctstatelibrary.org/contact us
Library of Congress Loc.gov Washington, DC	www.loc.gov/collections/ for online search instructions. Free to public.	Help limited by remote staff access http://www.loc.gov/tr/askalib/ask-contactus.html ; delays may exist
Family History Library FamilySearch.org (to use, create your own free account) Salt Lake City, UT	Free to public, open account: community.familysearch.org Library collection includes DFAW Newsletter.	Find Family History Centers (hours vary) at https://www.familysearch.org/help/ or go to FamilySearch Help Center or FamilySearch Learning Center

These are only 6 of our 18 societies or libraries given complementary subscriptions to the DFAW *Newsletter*. These “institution members” are often where the public finds out about DFAW and where DFAW members and descendants “find their roots.” During these closure times, remotely check out our DFAW society and library partners. Watch for full partner listings in the resource area of dfaw.org, with events and new info listed on our Facebook page coming soon.

You may want to request a DFAW Lineage Form to submit for an approved direct line certificate.

Your questions are always welcome. My goal is to help you take full advantage of your DFAW membership. Reach me, Pam Roberts, at membership@dfaw.org or by phone at 860 428-2406.

WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES DOUGLAS SHIPMAN AS NEW DIRECTOR

Following a nationwide search made possible by a technical assistance grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Non-Profit Support Program, The Windsor Historical Society's Board of Directors has named Douglas R. Shipman, its next Executive Director. Shipman took the helm on March 1, upon the retirement of longtime Executive Director Christine Ermenc. Ermenc, who announced her plans to retire in early-2019, led the Society for nineteen years and developed it into a professional organization with programs recognized at local, state, and national levels.



Shipman comes to Windsor Historical Society following a career of leadership in both nonprofit and military organizations, most recently helping strengthen area nonprofits at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Nonprofit Support Program. His museum experience includes Director of Education Programs with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Director of the Wethersfield Historical Society, and Director of Outreach Education and Special Services at Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Shipman, a Connecticut native, credits his experiences in living history and nonprofit development for his passion for outreach and inclusion, and for helping people connect to and experience their history and culture.

"Doug has acquired such wonderful experience in historical interpreting, educating, fostering diversity and inclusion, and building and maintaining community relationships in all the organizations and communities he has been a part of," remarked Society President Agnes Pier. "We are excited to tap into his energy and creativity to begin this new chapter for our organization, and we know he will serve the WHS and our community well."

HOLD THE DATE!

Our Fall Program and Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 at the Windsor Historical Society. We are currently exploring alternative options should social distancing be necessary. Watch for more information in the next issue of the *Newsletter*, the August First Class mailing, and on our webpage and Facebook page.

DFAW REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Olivia Patch

I have not received any new lineage applications for quite a while. However, I have been able to solve a real brick wall with the help of Liz Bournet Laney, a genealogy researcher and librarian who lives in Huntsville, Alabama. She has collected a lot of genealogical information including correspondence and family photos.

While refilling and organizing my genealogy material, I came upon a file on the research of former DFAW member George W. Dewey, now deceased, who, back in the early 1990s, had been attempting to identify the parents of Anna Brown, third wife of Gaylord Porter, a farmer who once resided in Hebron, Connecticut. Some of our other DFAW members, including experienced genealogists Betsey Clark Lambert and Carolyn Porter-Fraher, both of whom are also now deceased, collaborated with Mr. Dewey in writing an article, "Gaylord Porter and His Three Brown Wives," which was published in the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' *Connecticut Nutmegger*, Volume 25, number one (June 1992).

The group collected a lot of material, including a note written by Jasper, son of Gaylord and Anna (Brown) Porter, stating that his mother was "one of five orphans in one family, and each was given to a near relative, an aunt in each case, to be cared for, four in Torrington, Conn. and one in Hebron. Anna's Uncle Hurd gave her a little basket..." Jasper's note goes on to state that "Gaylord Porter ... married Miriam Brown, then second Susannah

Brown, her sister, and his third wife was their brother's daughter, Anna Brown." They ultimately concluded that Gaylord Porter's first two wives were most likely sisters Miriam Brown, born 1 September 1748, and Susannah Brown, born about 1756, daughters of a David Brown (a descendant of Peter Brown) and his wife Isabel Barnet, who had once lived in Windsor. David and his family removed first to the Litchfield, Connecticut area and later to New York state, where he, his wife, and other family members lived and died. David Brown died 3 February 1800 and is buried in the Smithfield Burying Ground, Smithfield, Dutchess County. However, there were still informational gaps not available or somehow missed that prevented them from discovering the parents of Gaylord's third wife, Anna (Brown) Porter.

Liz Laney had a list of David Brown's children, with birth dates, death dates, and names of spouses, which enabled me to pinpoint which Brown male must have been Anna's father. Elijah Brown was born in Windsor on 24 March 1753, the last child born to David and Isabel. He died during the time of the Revolutionary War and was buried in the Smithfield Burying Ground. Elijah was the only one of the Brown children who died during this time period. Elijah Brown married Mary ("Molly") Hurd, daughter of Gideon and Sarah (Graham) Hurd. He was the only one of David Brown's children to have married a Hurd, another good clue to solving the problem. The death of Gaylord Porter's first wife, Miriam; his marriage to his second wife, Susannah; and the deaths of Susannah and Anna, as well as the names and birth and death information on Gaylord's children are all recorded in the Hebron, Connecticut Vital Records. Thus, with new information and studying how everything fits together, I've come to the conclusion that Anna Brown, third wife of Gaylord Porter, was the daughter of Elijah Brown and wife Mary (Molly) Hurd; that after the deaths of her parents she was sent to live with her aunt Miriam; and that after the death of her aunt Susannah she married her aunts' husband - her stepfather!

COUSIN FINDERS EXCHANGE REPORT

Olivia Patch, Chair

Since my last report, I have received four permission slips to join our group. I am pleased that our participants have been helped and enjoy working together with their cousins. Some of our newer participants have given names of those whom they believe to be Founders but who are not on DFAW's Founders List. The most recent version of the Founders List is dated July 2007. It may be downloaded from our new webpage, DFAW.org, or requested from our Membership Secretary, Pamela Roberts.

DFAW COUSIN EXCHANGE

To participate in the 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:** _____



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

Richard C. Roberts, Editor
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HOW TO CONTACT US. EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2020

Have a general question, comment, or suggestion?

The “Contact Us” page on our new website, <https://DFAW.org>, has an easily completed form. First enter your name, email address, and subject. Then, write your message, confirm that you are not a robot, and click on “Send”.

OR

Send an email to: contact@DFAW.org.

OR

Send general correspondence and sales orders to: DFAW, P.O. Box 39, Windsor, CT 06095-0039.

Need information about joining DFAW?

The “Join DFAW” page on our new website, <https://DFAW.org/join-dfaw/> has an interim form. A convenient on-line application form is coming soon.

Have questions relating to your membership status?

Send an email to: membership@DFAW.org.

OR

Correspond with Pam Roberts, DFAW Membership Secretary, 596 Gurleyville Rd., Storrs, CT 06268-1408.

Have a completed Lineage Form with documentation or want to join our “Cousin Exchange”?

Correspond with Olivia Patch, DFAW Registrar, 83 Cedar Swamp Rd., Tolland, CT 06084.

JOIN US ON THE WEB

Webpage: Our new webpage is <https://DFAW.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DescendantsOfTheFoundersOfAncientWindsorInc/>

Blog: <http://DFAW.blogspot.com/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/dfaw1633>