

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

Volume XV, Number 2

1999

## TREKKING ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It is sometimes very exhilarating, and sometimes very exasperating being an organizational president. I feel as if I have been entrusted with a great responsibility. And the last nine months have been very frustrating, as I have not been able to shepherd along the work of the society due to the loss of our computers in the fire at the home of our genealogist.

I realize that there was nothing that I could do to remedy the situation, that was all in the hands of the insurance companies, but I felt as if my hands were tied anyway. WELL-----now I am most happy and relieved to be able to tell you that our new computers are UP AND RUNNING! We have lost the last nine months of genealogical data processing, but we are now proceeding from where we were last November. I suppose that we should be grateful that we were only held up for nine months by the settling of the insurance claims. A neighbor of mine here in Hadlyme had to live in a motel for four years until the claims for the loss of his home were settled. (The house was built in 1780 by a member of the Comstock family.)

We never lost our paper copies of our genealogical data base, but we could not proceed with building our data base without new computers. We have tens of thousands of names in our data base, so many so that our current index ALONE dwarfs a full size Webster's Dictionary. DFAW decided very early on to computerize our genealogical information. It was a good choice in 1983, it is even more necessary now. Genealogy is still done the old fashioned way, by good hard research work. But the computer as a storage facility, indexer, data updater, and outputter of current data, is a very necessary tool.

We have had to remedy another computer problem too. Our information for the membership files was kept on our little "286" business computer. The computer is fine, but the program was one of our originals from 1983. It had to be run from a NON COPYABLE diskette. When we realized that we had no way of extracting the data files from the hard drive of the computer without the diskette with the program, we started looking around for a newer version of this old IBM program which we could install on the hard drive. Well, we were unable to find any other program which would run these membership files, and sure enough, the diskette died. We were left with our membership files intact, but unusable still on the hard drive.

We again had to use our paper copy files for membership and labels. (You may have noticed the handwritten labels). Well the remedy for this problem was to recopy all the file information into a modern UPDATABLE program. These files have been put into WINDOWS '95 WORD. It is now usable by our Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Genealogist, Registrar, Corresponding Secretary, our media communications, and for any other needs. The Windows '95 version was chosen as it is also accessible to Windows '98, and is upgradable to newer versions as needed. If ANY of the information on your new labels is in error, now is the time to send us the corrections.

Like the old hymn says - "Time like an ever rolling stream bears all its sons (and daughters) away." Centuries from now we will all be part of the history and genealogy which we preserve, but the information which we continue to gather in our data base will hopefully survive. It is the reason that this DFAW society exists. It is with great relief and great joy that I now see its progress continuing.

Jim Leatherbee  
President, DFAW

**Note from the Editor—Donna Holt Siemiakoski**  
**33 Hillcrest Road, Windsor, Connecticut 06095**

First of all, I want to correct an oversight in a previous newsletter. The very evocative article on the Windsor soldiers at the Lexington Alarm was written by Jim Leatherbee, who did careful research on the subject. Jim is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and is a wealth of information on colonial and revolutionary times. As those who have heard his addresses on Founders Day know, he is very skillful at evoking the mood of times past. I am sorry that my haste in putting together that newsletter shortly before a tour resulted in my omitting his name as the author...he had not put it on his copy and my mind went blank at the wrong time. So many people wrote to praise the article that I want to set the record straight as to its authorship.

After 15 years as your editor, I am taking a break from the job...whether for the short or long term remains to be seen. Jim is taking responsibility for this edition, part of the fun of being president...picking up the pieces when nobody else can do the job.

I attended only the luncheon portion of Founders Day, accompanied by my son Dan. There I was able to announce personally what had already been told to the group by Jim...that I was soon to undergo surgery for ovarian cancer. For the next six months I will be undergoing chemotherapy, after which I should be cancer free for at least several years. It is fitting that a genealogist would get the family disease...my mother died of this at an age younger than I am now, her sisters and their maternal aunt, my Aunt Gladys who introduced me to genealogy, also had it. I figure that the Lord knew I would get it. We don't know why bad things are in the world, but I do know that the Lord

has been with me through everything else, and that He will be with me all the way, no matter where the paths lead. At the end of my chemo I have an 80% chance of being cancer free so we are all thinking positive thoughts and I am grateful for the many prayers. DFAW has been a very high part of my life over these past 15 years. It is almost like another child. I have hopes that this child, like my sons, will be able to go on and develop and be a vital force independent of "Mom." I know that Jim and Dick and the rest of our DFAW Board will do a good job in being sure that happens. I intend to stay involved on the Board, although my roles may now have to be different.

As far as the book *Foundations of Windsor*: DFAW vice president Dick Roberts, who is also the head of the State Library History and Genealogy Unit, met with my son Dan on Founders Day and I reviewed the manuscript with them. They have specific directions in case I am not able to finish the book. As it stands, the publisher wants 80 pages of land records included, which has proven to be a formidable task. I had started to resume work on the book now, since I have just completed a year since my father's death and all the upset of that time. Now, however, I face having to replace two months of my income as a self-employed genealogist, and so will find "spare time" scarce once again. I have to first know what my chemo schedule is, and what I can tolerate within that time. You may write to request a refund, but please don't write, as some have, to berate me for not finishing the book yet. Those with reservations in, will receive a book, as soon as I can make it happen.

I do appreciate the prayers and good wished of everyone. They are a big part of my healing process. I know many, many of you. This summer I completed the task of putting over 1200 names into a new database, and saw all your names and thought of each of you. I send my best wishes for God's blessings to each and every one of you.

THIS ARTICLE WAS RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY DFAW MEMBER JOAN CLAPP

A lot of wild plants that we think of as "native" were actually transplanted or cross-pollinated from Europe and other countries. Then again, a lot of native and wild plants that were used for food, medicine, and other uses (flutes, clothing, dyes) are today no longer commonly used for these purposes.



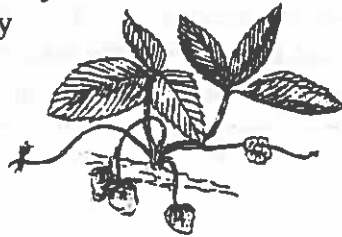
I have picked (no pun intended!) only a few of the berries to represent a wide choice of the fruits. Others would include the Cranberry, Choke Cherry, Sumac, and even the Wild Rose. These in turn, represent only a small amount of the Trees, Shrubs and Bushes, Vines, Wild Grasses, and Wild Flowers that were used by the Native Americans and taught to the Colonists.

### THE STRAWBERRY

The story of the Strawberry can go back to the three major continents at the time of Colonization: North America, South America and Europe. All had their separate varieties of the Strawberry.

Europe had a small berry, not very plentiful or tasty. South America, which the Indians grew, were large, apparently very seedy and did not have much of a flavor. And in what would eventually become the United States, there grew a strawberry a little bigger than Europe's, and was delicious to the taste.

Roger Williams wrote of the strawberries the English Colonists found both growing wild and used by the Indians in Virginia (in 1607); "*In some parts, where the natives have planted, I have seen -- within a few miles -- as many as would fill a good ship*". (2) He also has written that the Strawberry *naturally in these parts. and mixe them with* But it seems fresh---- *milkweed*". But the invented that American



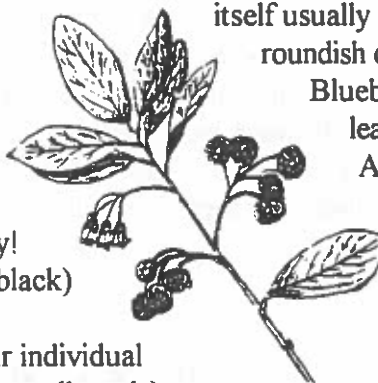
was "*the wonder of all the Fruits growing The Indians bruise them in a Morter, meale and make strawberry bread*". (1) as though the Indians liked the berries simply sweetened "*with the dew of Colonists, to their everlasting credit, favorite--the Strawberry Shortcake!*"

As early as 1624 (3), the wild North American strawberry had been sent to France for cross-breeding with Europe's variety, but the berries were still relatively small. A short time later, Captain Amede Frezier, a French explorer/spy, upon completion of his mission of observing Spanish fortifications on the west coast of South America, dug up and smuggled back to Europe some wild Chilean strawberries. So began the cross-breeding that would become favorites: Large, Red and Delicious!

### THE HUCKLEBERRY

The Huckleberry Bushes were so plentiful during Colonial times, that not only summer outings were held to go "*huckleberrring*", or "*ahucking*", but a vocabulary grew, equating the small, plentiful and common fruit to the early nineteenth--century slang for a small amount, or a person of no consequence. "*To be a huckleberry to someones's persimmon*" meant - to be nothing in comparison with someone else, and "*to get the huckleberry*", was a predecessor of sorts "*to get a raspberry*" (to be laughed at or ridiculed). (1)

The Huckleberry bush high, with leaves that are alternate, the base. They can look a lot like a closer inspection, the Huckleberry's have yellow markings on the underside. bush, with its berry clusters can often be in other ways -- until you bite into the berry! mature until they turn a deep dark (almost black) thoroughly soft. (Blueberries, of course, Huckleberries have 8 to 10 seeds within their individual between one's teeth (Blueberries have many small seeds) Huckleberries have a bitter taste when eaten raw. Crushed fresh Huckleberries are great for pies and preserves, while dried berries can be mixed any number of ways for making pemmican, for flavoring, and in dough and puddings.



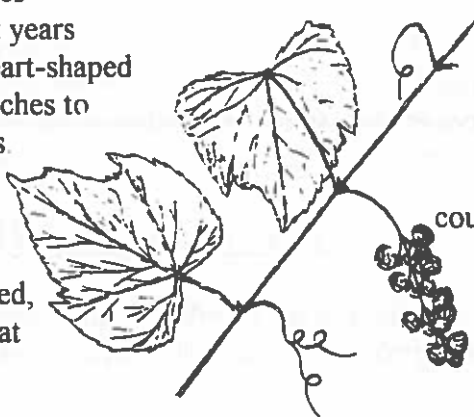
itself usually grows around 4 to 5 feet roundish on the top, and pointed at Blueberry leaf, however, on leaves, in their coloring can An immature Huckleberry mistaken for a Blueberry Huckleberries are not color, and are are ripe when blue!) fruits, which crunch and an almost

## GRAPES

There are more than a handful of natural occurring wild grapes throughout New England and North America. Indeed, grapes can grow wild in almost every Continent and in every climate in the world!

In the wild, it was not unusual for the grape plant to live over 50 years, with the stem, or "trunk", of the vine growing three inches or over in diameter. The trunk sends off main branches, called "arms", and as these climb trees and surrounding vegetation, they send off the current years "shoots". These shoots grow the heart-shaped that grab and wrap around tree branches to and arms, and the berries themselves.

Grapes are eaten raw, of crushed fresh for the juice to be make excellent jellies and jams. Dried, crushed and added with fats and meat in other recipes for flavoring.



and surrounding growth of soft green leaves, the tendrils steady and hold the vine

course, but they can also be made into drinks. They the grapes can be for pemmican and used

It is said that the boiled leaves, along with other plants and herbs, were used as a poultice for wounds.

An interesting characteristic of the Grapevine is the "bleeding" which occurs when cut. Although the sap is not used in the same way as in some trees (i.e.; maple to syrup), it can be used to quench thirst. Lacking water from another source, by cutting a wild grapevine about six feet long (head high and at ground level), water will drip from the lower cut, if the top is kept elevated. When the oozing quits, by recutting the top off about a foot, more sap will drain out of the bottom. (3). Because of the grapevine's long root depth, some liquid can be supplied in this difficult way any time of the year.

### **THE RASPBERRY**

Raspberry brambles grow, and grow, and grow!

The Raspberry bush can grow up to six feet tall, but can become a "patch" or "bramble", in only a short time. The main stalks of the raspberry are called "canes", which have root systems. These root systems can come from established "crowns" (over a season old), or where branch-- ends have pushed into the ground for their own place to establish a root hold. New canes, from crowns and roots will grow vigorously during the summer, initiate flower buds in the fall, blossoming and bearing fruits during the following season in the wild. The canes that have berries forming on them now were green and succulent last year, while this season, after fruiting, will begin to turn hard and brown and die back.



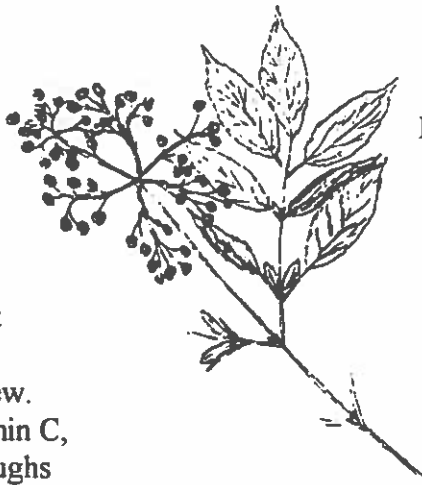
There are several varieties of Raspberries in the wild, the most common being the Red Raspberry, and the Black, which are also called Blackcaps. Both have slightly different growing cycles, and are different again from the Blackberry, although, at a distance, the bushes look the same. But the berries from the Blackberry, if not quite ripe, come off the stems with difficulty - they don't "pop" off. The Raspberry's fruits resemble a thimble when picked, in that the berries are "hollow", whereas the true Blackberry has a core which the fruit remains attached to when the berry is picked.

### **THE ELDERBERRY**

It has been said that all parts of the Elderberry can be used, and that there is something to eat, use, or to receive medical benefits from the bush in every season.

The Common Elderberry Bush (or tree) enjoying rich, moist soil can reach up to 12 feet in the lowlands, and around swamps. The stems and branches are pithy, and the toothed leaves grow opposite each other. The small, usually white blossoms grow on a many-branched umbrella-like clusters, forming purplish-black berries (or fruit) in late May and June.

Although no part of the be eaten raw, the plain leaves and and highly toxic. Even the berries, juice can cause nausea and other broiled, steeped, cooked, dried or become a highly versible ingredient medical uses. Wines, Jelly, Pie, and Elderberry Sauce, to name a few. Elderberry is rich in Iron and Vitamin C, be made into a Syrup to relieve coughs



Elderberry is recommended to bark are considered poisonous if one is not used to the raw symptoms. Yet when soaked, the berries in recipes, and for Spiced Elderberries, Because the the berries can and reduce fever.

The blossoms can be picked, or shaken loose and when soaked, boiled or steeped into a tea called Elderblow. The blossoms can also be put into batter to be used as flavoring in fritters, muffins, and other recipes.

Young leaves can be scalded in boiling water and added to salads, and green, young branches and stalks, after paring away the woody, outer casing, can be cooked and eaten.

Crushed leaves are said to be an insect repellent!

Because of the pithiness of the bush, the branches can be hollowed-out and become flutes and other instruments.

Book Acknowledgement List

Other books

- (1) *The Berry Book*, by Robert Hendrickson  
Doubleday & Company, Inc.; Garden City,  
N.Y. 1981
- (2) *Foods The Indians Gave Us*, by Wilma and  
R. Vernon Hays, Ives Washburn, Inc.,  
New York, N.Y. 1973
- (3) *Successful Berry Growing* by Gene Logsdon  
Rodale Press, Inc., Emmaus, PA 1974

- The Complete Guide to Growing Berries and Grapes* by  
Louise Riotte, Garden Way Publishing; Charlotte, VT 1974
- American Indian Food and Lore*; by Carolyn Niethammer  
Collier Books, Division of Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.  
New York 1974
- The Book of Shrubs*; by William Carey Grimm  
The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, PA 1957

Also a Thank You! for help given me at *The Institute for American Indian Studies*, located in Washington, CT.

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The DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 39, Windsor, CT 06095 is published in Windsor CT by & for members of DFAW. Our purpose is to record and perpetuate the history and genealogy of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, their families, and their descendants.

DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR  
 ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 September 30, 1998 (Unaudited)  
 By Priscilla Silliman, Treasurer

BALANCES - October 1, 1997

Checking Account	\$ 3,585.05	
Statement Savings	2,692.12	
Certificate of Deposit	24,042.50	
Certificate of Deposit	3,000.00	
Certificate of Deposit	<u>4,070.00</u>	
Total Balances October 1, 1997		\$ 37,389.67

RECEIPTS

Initiation Fees	435.00	
Dues	3,973.00	
Sales	129.90	
Programs	1,521.00	
Interest	1,827.85	
Miscellaneous	<u>122.38</u>	
Total Receipts		\$ 8,009.13

DISBURSEMENTS

Genealogy	212.31	
Membership	257.36	
Newsletter	1,961.23	
Programs	1,587.37	
Computer Related	681.55	
Sales Related	204.37	
Sales Tax	.64	
General Fund		
N.E. Conference	250.00	
Fees	-----	
Supplies and Postage	960.03	
Miscellaneous	<u>149.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		\$ 6,263.86

BALANCE ON HAND September 30, 1998 \$ 39,134.94

BALANCES -- SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

Checking	\$ 5,701.74
Statement Savings	2,775.13
Certificate of Deposit	25,638.68
Certificate of Deposit	<u>5,019.39</u>

TOTAL CASH ON HAND -- September 30, 1998 \$ 39,134.94





# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## VITAL RECORDS

January 23, 1998

Mr. Dick Roberts  
Connecticut State Library  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Roberts:


Listed below are the genealogical societies that are incorporated in the State of Connecticut:

Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc.  
Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.  
French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.  
Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.  
Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc.  
Lance Genealogical Research Library Society, Inc. The  
Middlesex Genealogical Society, Inc.  
Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.  
Friends of Godfrey Memorial Library, Inc.  
Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, Inc.

To our knowledge, this is the most current list. We will update you periodically when new societies are added and deleted respectfully.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 509-7896.

Respectfully,

  
Kevin Krusz  
Vital Records  
Customer Service

Phone:

Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191

410 Capitol Avenue - MS # \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134

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**YOUR DFAW MEMBERSHIP CARD  
AND THIS LETTER FROM  
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
VITAL RECORDS**

**WILL CERTIFY YOUR ENTRY  
INTO ALL TOWN CLERK'S OFFICES  
FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH  
IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR**

**SPRING LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, March 27, 1999**

**Speaker: DR. MARK JONES, STATE ARCHIVIST  
"WHAT'S NEW AT THE CONNECTICUT STATE ARCHIVES"**

**Time: Social Hour 11-12; Luncheon 12 - 1:30, Speaker 1:30**

**Place: Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, 860-247-1784**

**Directions From - I-91 -- Take Exit 29A (Capitol Area) & take the first exit to Columbus Boulevard. At the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Columbus Boulevard; at the second light turn right onto Charter Oak Avenue; at the first light turn right into the Polish National Home parking lot.**

**From - I-84 West -- Take Exit 54 (Downtown Hartford), stay left. At first light turn left onto Columbus Boulevard. At the fifth light take a right onto Charter Oak Avenue; at the first light turn right into the Polish National Home parking lot.**

**From - I-84 East -- Take Exit 48B (Capitol Avenue). At the end of the exit ramp take a left onto Capitol Avenue. At the fourth light Capitol Avenue meets Main Street. Turn right on Main Street, go one block to Charter Oak Avenue (opposite South Congregational Church). Turn left. At the second light turn left into the Polish National Home parking lot.**

**Those of us attending last year found it easy to find this facility and we were pleased with the food and program. The parking lot is fenced in for security.**

**MENU**

**Kielbasa - Sauerkraut**

**Baked chicken --roasted potatoes--hot vegetable--penne rigate with marinara sauce--tossed salad  
pickles--bread and butter--apple crisp--coffee/tea**

**Cost: \$16 per person payable to DFAW, mail by March 20 to Priscilla Silliman, Treasurer,  
1207 Poquonock Avenue, Windsor CT 06095-1865. Phone 860-688-2756 for more information**

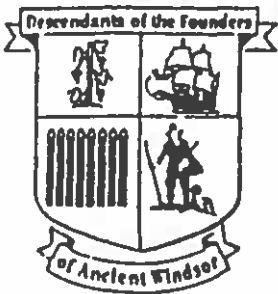
**Name (s) for name tags: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_**

A note from Dorothy Armstrong, Sales Chairman:

Because there are many of our members who are unable to travel to Windsor, some of the DFAW items for sale are listed here. DFAW pins, DFAW Note cards (6) showing a 1700 gravestone, DFAW seal and the John Mason Statue designed by member Joan Clapp and a 1640--1654 Plan of Ancient Windsor map showing home lots of the original settlers, and more. For a complete list of DFAW items and prices, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Dorothy Armstrong, 522 Foster Street, South Windsor, CT 06074-2935.



DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS  
OF ANCIENT WINDSOR, INC.  
Donna Holt Siemiatkoski, Editor  
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Windsor, CT 06095

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Mrs Bernard Hoey  
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Hilton Head, SC 29926