

75 years

ago, the Wilton Historical Society was founded in the wood-paneled room of a home on Belden Hill. The small circle of Wilton residents who organized the Society wanted to ensure that Wilton's heritage was preserved and shared by future generations. While the Society's central location has changed over the years, from the Lambert House to the Fitch House to its present day complex, the Society continues to dedicate itself to keeping Wilton's history alive and relevant to interested visitors and scholars.

The works in the exhibition *75 Objects/75 Years* reveal a trove from the Society's permanent collection, objects and works of art that reflect the lives and histories of Wilton's residents. Handmade tools, needlecraft, 19th century fashions and intriguing, purposeful implements of everyday life tell the stories of enterprising New England townfolk. A foot warmer, an iron coffee grinder, and an innovative fluting iron demonstrate the creativity of everyday objects. Innovative and adaptable, Wilton residents farmed, socialized and raised families striving for improvement, education and a connection to the wider world. A stunning portrait by the prominent portrait painter Ralph Earl and a hand-painted sign from the busy local Cannondale train station testify that the world of Wilton residents extended well beyond their vibrant hometown just as it does today.

Gifts from generous donors have enriched the collections immeasurably, and we are grateful for the continued support of a thriving Wilton community.

Exhibition Dates: March 21–October 5, 2013

The exhibition is open Tuesday–Saturday 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Docent-led tours are an excellent way to see the Wilton Historical Society collections. One-hour tours are held each Saturday at 2 p.m. and by appointment. For more information on hours, current and upcoming events, programs, and services at the Wilton Historical Society, call 203.762.7257 or visit the Society website at www.wiltonhistorical.org.

The **Betts Store** celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Wilton Historical Society with an exciting array of locally made and handmade items, all for sale! From one-of-a-kind jewelry, to Wilton mugs and totes, to toys, Saltbox Press cards, and Frances Palmer's porcelain vases, you will find special gifts and keepsakes. All sales help support the Society's mission.

We gratefully acknowledge the following people for their participation in this exhibition:

Fine Arts Advisors Shawna Barrett and Laura Einstein, and Nancy Brautigam, Judy Hart, Mary Lou Logan, Carol Russell, Sue Sherwood, Bunny Sicard, Walter R. T. Smith, Joan Starr, Helen Stauderman, Ruth Wolfe, and Jeffrey Yates.



75 objects

75 years

An anniversary exhibition from the permanent collections



Wilton Historical Society

Celebrating 75 Years

Wilton Historical Society, Inc., 224 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897
203.762.7257 wiltonhistorical.org



Wilton Historical Society

Checklist of the Exhibition

Ralph Earl (1751–1801)
Mrs. Jessie Simcha Jonas Judah (Goldsmith), 1794
Oil on canvas
Gift, Mrs. E. J. Celeste Cronin
2002.28.1

Henry Grinnell Thomson, Wilton
Lambert House, c. 1905
Oil on canvas
Purchase
2003.52.6

Artist Unknown
Esther Lambert, 1810
Oil on canvas
Gift, Mrs. Helen S. Heward
95.10.004
Artist unknown

Samuel Fitch Lambert, 1810–1815
Oil on canvas
Gift, Mrs. Helen S. Heward
95.10.003

Artist unknown
Susannah Rogers Lambert, 1815
Oil on canvas
Gift, Mrs. Helen S. Heward
95.10.002

Crazy Quilt, c. 1880
Silk, cotton, velvet
Purchase, Elizabeth Ambler Estate
92.12.166

Sampler
Huldah A. Sherman, Norwalk, 1842
Linen monocanvas, wool embroidery yarns, dyes
Gift, Lawrence Olmstead
83.6.001

Sampler, Record, Smith-Olmstead Family
Sarah E. Olmstead, Wilton, 1838
Linen, cotton, silk, wood, gilt, glass
Anonymous Gift
98.10.1

Sampler, Verse: *Christmas Day*
Huldah Cole, Wilton, 1837
Evenweave linen/hempen monocanvas, embroidery yarns
Gift, Dr. Grace Nancarrow Gorham and Miriam Gorham
83.1.004

Sampler
Catherine Meeker’s sampler, 1824
Linen, wood, gold paint, nails, embroidery thread
Purchase, Elizabeth Ambler Estate
98.12.170 A,B

Hair Wreath
North America, 1800s
Human hair, wire, thread, white silk, black writing ink
Gift, David Young
65.12.003

Hooked Rug
Maker unknown, c. 1880
Wool
Gift, Mrs. Alice Levin
92.5.001

Sewing Box
New England, c. 1850
Wood, gilding, applied decorative finish, iron alloy
Gift, Lewis Betts Rockwell
85.10.315

Sewing Birds
New England, c. 1825
Iron alloy, spring steel
Gift, Lewis Betts Rockwell
85.10.296, 85.10.297

Doll, Mamie
Made by members of Lila Godfrey Northrop family, c. 1880
China, kid, cotton, felt
Gift, Donald Northrop, Yarmouth, Maine
2010.6.1

Doll, Jumeau
France, c. 1880
Porcelain, enamels, glass, kid leathers, thread, adhesive, mohair
Gift, Mrs. Alice Levin
76.9.003

Doll, Covered Wagon Style
Maker unknown, c. 1875
China, cotton, leather
Museum purchase, Ambler Estate
98.12.3

Aunt Jemima Doll
Arnold Print Works, c. 1910
Printed muslin, cotton stuffing
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0113

Aunt Jemima’s Husband, Uncle Mose Doll
Arnold Print Works, c. 1910
Printed muslin, cotton stuffing
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0114

Aunt Jemima’s Daughter, Diana Doll
Arnold Print Works, c. 1910
Printed muslin, cotton stuffing
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0115

Rocking Chair, 1882
Wood, paint, iron alloy, adhesive
Gift, Mary Katherine Watkins Van Ness
79.4.3

Rocking Horse
Maker unknown, possibly Connecticut, c. 1850
Wood, paint, leather, iron alloy, tasseled braid, tow
Gift, Ralph Green
73.15.001

Doll’s Carriage
Europe, England, or North America, 1850–1935
Wood, paint, metal, oilcloth
Gift, Rockwell family
62.126.001

Chair, Doll’s Highback
Maker unknown, c. 1900
Wood, metal
Gift, Ann Close
98.16.6

Doll’s Trunk
Peleg Tripp, 85 Harman St., New York, 1817
Wood, leather/hide, iron, brass
Gift, Timothy and Virginia Merwin
97.17.006

Rattle
Connecticut; maker unknown, 1850–1870
Wood, varnish
Gift, Lewis Betts Rockwell
75.1.104

Sled
New England, 1860–1870
Wood, iron
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0110

Bolero
North America or France, 1900–1910
Wool gabardine, silk, faille
Gift, Dr. Grace Gorham
82.4.039

Train, Engine and Three Cars
Ives Electric & Mechanical Trains, Connecticut, 1910–1920
Metal (steel and brass), paint, glass
Gift, Connie Blain
97.11.1, A-D

Cast Iron Stove, *Royal Esther*
Mount Penn Stove Company, 1881–1920
Cast iron, nickel
Anonymous Gift
2012.FIC.8

Tin Kitchen
Maker unknown, c.1880
Tin, paint
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0364, a-x

Uncle Sam Bank
Shephard Hardware Co., Buffalo, New York, c. 1890
Cast iron, paint
Gift, Leon and Angela Weiss
2006.1.23

Poster or Broadside, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
S. Booth, 201 Center St., New York, N.Y., 1875–1876
Yellow wood pulp paper, black printer’s ink
Gift, Timothy Merwin
75.46.002

Ticket Office Sign
Wilton, c. 1890
Wood, paint, copper alloy
Gift, David Comstock
88.14.002

Weathervane
Clifton Meek, Wilton, c. 1930
Tin, sheet metal, lead
Gift, Ivor Chapman
2003.37.1

Silk Dress
North America or Europe, 1888
Pongee silk, or wild silk
Gift, Mrs. A. Birch
64.62.008 A,B

Waistcoat
North America or Europe, c. 1825
Silk satin, embroidery threads
Gift, Mrs. Tilford W. Miller
78.12.001

Wedding Shoes
New England, 1885
Kid leather
Gift, Mr. and Mrs. A. Black
64.64.005

Bathing Outfit
Designer unknown, c. 1905
Wool, cotton
Gift, Mary Lou Logan
2009.5.2 A-C

Bathing Outfit
Maker unknown, c. 1910
Cotton
Gift, Dr. Grace Gorham
82.4.015

Bathing Stockings
White with red trim
Maker unknown, c. 1900
Cotton
Gift, Charlotte Gregerson
75.29.001

Bathing Stockings
Red
Maker unknown, c. 1900
Cotton
Gift, Mary Lou Logan
2009.5.3

Boy’s Velvet Suit
Maker unknown, c. 1915
Cotton velvet
Anonymous Gift
2005.FIC.3

Child’s Coat
Maker unknown, 1880–1890
Velvet, cotton
Gift, Joyce Ann Marzioli
92.4.001

Child’s Gloves
North America or Europe, 1800–1900
Wool (red)
Gift, Ethel Gorham
66.23.014A,B

Child’s Gloves
Maker unknown, 1910–1912
Pigskin leather, thread, metal
Gift, Mary Lou Logan
90.24.02 A,B

Child’s Boots
Maker unknown, c. 1875
Leather, wood, metal
Anonymous Gift
2002.FIC.25

Child’s Boots
Maker unknown, c. 1880
Leather, bone
Gift, Patricia Singley
95.8.09

Cheese Press
United States, 1860–1900
Wood (walnut), galvanized tin
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0266A-D

Coffee Grinder
Enterprise Manufacturing Co., Philadelphia, PA, 1873
Cast iron, wood
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0286

Herb or Spice Grinder, Boat-shaped
Maker unknown, America, 18th century
Cast iron, wood
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0561 A,B

Mortar and Pestle
America, 18th century
Cast iron
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0579 A,B

Foot Warmer
Maker unknown, c. 1850
Wood, tin, cast iron
Anonymous Gift

Fluting Iron with Base
Made in Geneva, Illinois, 1866–1875
Cast iron, iron alloy, zinc plating
Gift, J.R. McLaughlin
65.22.016

Bathtub
North America, 1885–1900
Tinned sheet iron
Gift, Mrs. Nelson Bradley Gorham
64.18.001

Drying Basket
New England, 1870–1880
Ash
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0786

Handcuffs
Blacksmith-made, 1825–1875
Iron alloy
Gift, Clerc Ogden
62.84.001

Butter Churn
Smith & Day, Norwalk, 1820–1850
Stoneware
Gift, Lewis Betts Rockwell
75.1.1

Furrow Maker
American
Wood, iron
Gift, Patrick Skidd, III
2007.32.3

Ladies’ Slippers
Maker unknown, New England, 1823–1824
Linen, leather, wood
Gift, Annabel Barrows, for Mrs. Frederick Sheffield
89.23.07

Top Hat
New England, 1880–1910
Beaver fur, felt, ribbon, faille
Gift, Mrs. Joan O’Hayer
2001.2.2

Bonnet
North America or Europe
Linen, lace
Gift, Mrs. and Mrs. Hay Foster
76.28.007

Baby Bonnet
Maker unknown, New England, 1880–1900
Lace, cotton batiste, ribbon
Gift, Amy Quigley
2003.50.67

Bonnet Mold
American, c. 1800
Wood
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0777A

Parasol
North America, or Europe, c. 1875
Black lace, embroidery yarns, iron alloy, silk, linen lace, silver, ivory
Gift, Mrs. A. Millikan
65.7.001

Muff
Maker unknown, 1880–1900
Ermine fur and ermine tails, silk, feathers
Gift, Linda Duncan Taylor
2007.36.2

Reticule
Maker unknown, 1890
Cut steel, glass beads
Gift, John and William Sturges
2001.21.82

Reticule
Maker unknown, c. 1900
Silk, metallic net, “silvered” glass
Anonymous gift
A-182

Cheese Drainer
New England, c.1890
Wood, metal, nails
Gift, Dana Blackmar Estate
93.DB.0829

Up and Down Saw Blade
Maker unknown, c. 1850
Steel
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.250

Cooper’s Brace
Craftsman-made, early 19th century
Beech or oak wood, brass, steel
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2004.5130

Cage Head Brace
Blacksmith-made, early 19th century
Steel
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.152

Brass Frame Breast Drill
Maker unknown, early 19th century
Steel, brass
Mark: S.B.I. CO.
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.155

Wall Sconce
Blacksmith-made, c. 1880
Forged iron, traces of gold paint
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2011.5.5

Ice Tongs
C.B. Grumman, Branchville, CT c. 1875
Iron alloy (steel), wood
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
86.11.001

Gutter Adze
Maker unknown, c. 1830
Steel, hickory wood
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.140

T-Nose Auger
Blacksmith-made, 18th century design
Hickory wood, steel
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.304

Shaker Plait Mill
Shaker-made, c. 1815
Maple or hickory wood
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2004.5.197

Plaster Fom
Craftsman-made, c. 1942
Pine wood, sheet steel, paint
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2004.5.47

Wing Divider Compass
Maker unknown, c. 1880
Steel
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.359

Chalk Reel
Handcrafted, c. 1840
Hickory wood, steel nail, red paint
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2013.3.3

Double Caliper
Maker unknown, c. 1885
Steel
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.112

Traveler
Maker unknown, c. 1875
Steel, hickory wood
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.95

Goosewing Broad Axe
William Addams, Pennsylvania, c. 1850
Steel, hickory wood
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.112

Rabbit Plane or Shipwright’s Plane
Craftsman-made, c. 1850
Maple hardwood, steel, stain
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2013.2.1

Hewing Axe
G.W. Bradley Co., Weston-Westport, Conn., c. 1875
Forged steel, hickory wood
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.41

Violin Maker’s Caliper
Maker unknown, late 19th century
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.211

Fruit Auger
Manufactured, with hand work, c. 1875
Beech hardwood, steel, possible galvanizing
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2013.3.2

Coachmaker’s Router/Plane
G.W. Bradley Co., Weston-Westport, Conn.
Steel, hickory wood
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith
2003.15.77