

History is Here!

Recent Acquisitions 2012 – 2017

April 21 – October 6, 2018

Over the last five years, the Society has acquired a remarkable variety of objects related to Wilton. Some were part of local, regional and national events dating from Wilton's Colonial beginnings to the present. Other artifacts are more personal, saved by Wiltonians for future generations. Here you can examine a rare Revolutionary War payment order, a shoemaker's ledger c. 1840, a Kristine Lilly Wheaties box and bobble head, and jazz great Dave Brubeck materials. In doing so, recall the British Army's march down Ridgefield Road in April, 1777; the thriving shoe industry of mid-19th century Wilton; a hometown girl's rise to world-wide fame as a soccer Olympian, and the distinctive rhythms of "Take Five".

Each item has a hidden backstory, the historical significance of which can be interpreted in a variety of ways. When you are looking at letters about folk and blues legend Lead Belly, contemplate how they fit into his complex story, in which music, race, class, commerce and crime each play a part – and Wilton's part in these remarkable events. The immense head of George Washington by sculptor Gifford Proctor is both a work of art and a meditation on General Washington's harsh winter at Valley Forge. Is the zippy red Gregory Family Road Cart (c. 1870) an opportunity to think about improvements in carriage design, the condition of Wilton's rutted rural roads, or a symbol of social status – or all three?

The struggle between preservation and development, which has been much in Wilton's news over the last five years, is illustrated by a striking photograph of the now demolished c. 1860 Schlicting House and a time-lapse presentation showing the preservation of one of Wilton's characteristic barns, the c. 1840 structure on the former Young's Nursery site. That tension is likely to continue as Wilton continues to change and grow.

History is here, all around us, and is very much a part of daily life in Wilton. As Harriet Beecher Stowe noted "The past, the present and the future are really one: they are today."

Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road, Wilton CT 068907
203-762-7257
www.wiltonhistorical.org



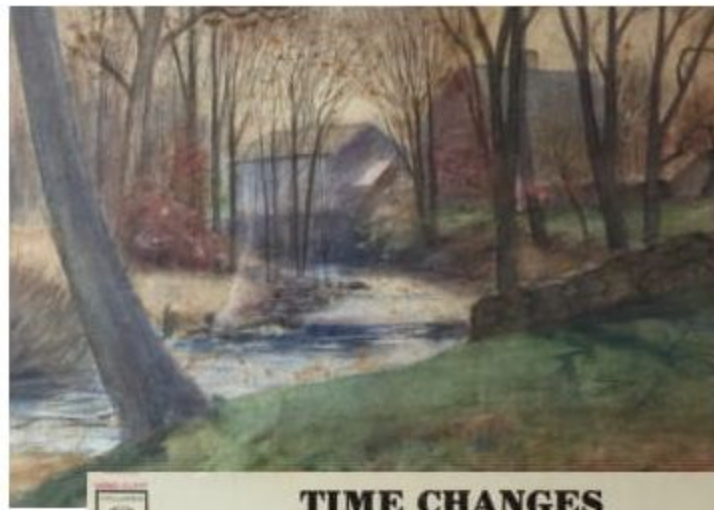
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Chestnut Hill Land Deed to David Lambert
1739
Museum Purchase

Reproduction of *New York Times* article on King George Statue
1973
Gift of Mary Findlay

Town of Wilton Bicentennial Flag
2002
Gift of Carol & Bob Russell

State of Connecticut Payment Request
1777
Gift of John Reznikoff

Skier Weathervane
1920-1960
Gift of Fred Wernig

Reproduction news article on Silvermine
1916
Gift of James J. & Virginia Coleburn Gallagher

Shoemaker's Ledger
1830-1850
Gift of Sonja Ziluca

Tax Relief Petition by Aaron Hyatt
1817
Gift of John Reznikoff

Photograph of 183 Ridgefield Road (Schlichting House, c. 1860)
2016
Josh Axelrod (1980-, American)
Gift of Helen & Al Stauderman

Orem/Olmstead Barn
c. 1840
Gift of Sunrise Senior Living

Coldwater Spring Suspension Road Cart
1885-1905
Gift of Margaret Gregory

Rooster Weathervane
1900-1950
Gift of Fred Wernig

"Get CT Out of the Mud" Plaque
1930
Gift of William H. Alexander

Bed Rug
19th-century
Gift of Margaret Gregory

Goosewing Hewing Axe
1860-1870
Bradley Axe Co.
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith

Branding Iron
1860-1905
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith

Auger
1820-1860
Gift of Walter R.T. Smith

Snow Landscape
Date unknown
Henry Grinnell Thompson (1850-1937, American)
Oil on canvas
Gift of Kathy & Joseph Torg

Landscape
Date unknown
Henry Grinnell Thompson (1850-1937, American)
Pastel on paper
Gift of Kathy & Joseph Torg

"Dinah" Marionette
1930-1940
Gift of Rev. & Mrs. Dale M. Greene

Animal Block Puzzle
1920-1940
Gift of Helen & Al Stauderman

Stuffed Reindeer
1900-1930
Gift of Mary Lou Logan

Poster for Wilton Choral Club production of *Iolanthe*
1956
Gift of Elizabeth Ward in Memory of Robert & Ellen Ward

Letter from Martha Ledbetter
1949
Gift of John Reznikoff

Dave Brubeck Award Plaque
1987
Gift of Tish & Chris Brubeck

Dave Brubeck Concert Poster
1968-1973
Gift of Tish & Chris Brubeck

***Time Changes* Album**
1963
The Dave Brubeck Quartet
Gift of Sue Sherwood

Catcher's Chest Protector
c.1950's
Gift of Beth & Donald Rowley

Wheaties Box
1999
Gift of Teresa Morelli

Photograph of Kristine Lilly, with autograph
2007
Gift of Teresa Morelli

Kristine Lilly Bobblehead Doll
2001-2011
Gift of Teresa Morelli

Kristine Lilly Beanie Babies
1995-2000
Gift of Teresa Morelli

Kristine Lilly Lunchbox & Thermos
2001-2011
Gift of Teresa Morelli

"Soc-Tober Fest" T-Shirts
2006
On Loan, Dr. Gregory Chann

Head of George Washington
1940-1950
Gifford Proctor (1912-2006, American)
Gift of Susan Proctor

Victory Tax Guide
1942
Gift of Susan Wiston

S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien Model Ship
1994
Gift of Doug Harris

Springfield Rifled Musket
1855
Gift of John Reznikoff

Civil War Sword
c.1860
Gift of John Reznikoff

Junior WAAC Uniform
1942-1945
Gift of Ruth Wolfe

Junior Navy Uniform
1942-1945
Gift of Ruth Wolfe

Trunk
1834
Swedish
Gift of Susan & Mark Wilterding