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# SIMSBURY

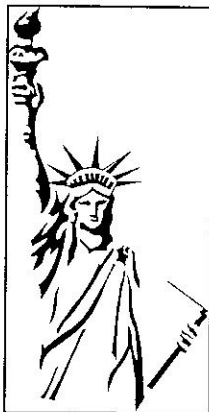
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Volume 3 Issue 3

August 1996

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*US Federal Censuses date from 1790 and were repeated every 10 years. The most recent census available for public use is 1920.*

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## **“Making Sense of the Census” Seminar Offered**

A free Members Only Seminar will be held on Sunday afternoon, September 29th from 1 - 4 PM. The topic, *Making Sense of the Census*, will cover the uses of Federal and State Censuses.

These “one-day photographs” from the past can be very helpful to genealogists if you understand what they really were and how to use them. Learn what you can and cannot expect from them as we explore them. You will come away with an increased understanding of the various indexes that are available and a clearer appreciation for enumeration districts, Soundex and Miracode as we unravel the mysteries of the US Census. We will also look into State Censuses which can provide another opportunity to locate lost ancestors.

Seating is limited so to reserve a space, either sign-up when you are at the Library or call 658-5382 and have your membership number handy.

## **THE WESTFIELD ACADEMY AND ITS STUDENTS**

On January 1, 1800, a secondary school modeled upon Benjamin Franklin’s academy in Philadelphia, began operations in Westfield, Massachusetts. The first year it enrolled 187 students who came primarily from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. At its peak there were 432 students both male and female. While not immediately close to the Simsbury area, Westfield was on the coach line and seemed to have attracted students from the Farmington Valley area.

Annual catalogues were published listing general information on the school as well as members of that year’s class. The school had an autumn and winter term which each ran thirteen weeks. A summer term of 14 weeks was offered as well. Tuition ranged from \$3.00 per term in the 1830’s plus an additional 50 cents if the student took either Latin or French to \$5.50 per term just prior to the Civil War. The school offered no residential facilities but “...Board, including washing, fuel & c., may be obtained in good families from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per term.

The Gentlemen’s and Ladies’ Departments were kept separately and united only for Morning and Evening Prayer, Recitations and some exercises in Composition and Declamations. There was mandatory church attendance with a choice of churches (Congregational, Methodist or Baptist). In 1858, a department of scientific agriculture was added. The establishment of a public high school in Westfield in 1855 and the onset

*cont pg 2*

## Westfield Academy cont.

of the Civil War caused a decline in the Academy's fortune and by 1867 the school ceased to function although the Board of Trustees continued to administer the endowment and used it to further secondary education in Westfield.

The Westfield Athenaeum, located in the center of Westfield, has in its collections several of the annual catalogues as well as some miscellaneous papers. From these a list of area students attending the school has been compiled along with their residences.

*The ties between  
Simsbury and  
the Academy  
strengthened as  
Jeffrey O.  
Phelps became  
a Trustee in  
1853.*

### 1828

Elmir W. Adams	Canton	Julia A. Beecher	Barkhamsted
Rollin L. Beecher	Barkhamsted	Julia A. Pettibone	Canton
Joseph W. Clark	Farmington	Fidelia Woodford	Farmington
Philo A. Goodwin	Wintonbury		

### 1831

Elmir Adams	Canton	Rhoda Abbey	Granby
Edwin Barber	Canton	Mary Adams	Canton
Lucian Barber	Canton	Polly Case	Simsbury
Edwin L. Caldwell	Wintonbury	Cordelia Eno	Simsbury
Edwin Case (dead)	Canton	Florinda Humphrey	Canton
Edward Hubbard	Wintonbury	Rachel Humphrey	Canton
David Humphrey	Canton	Caroline St. Johns	Simsbury
Nathan F Miller	Avon	Stella Tuller	Canton
		Sally Wilcox	Canton
		Eliza Wilcox	Canton

### 1832

Lucien Barber	Canton	Mary Adams	Canton
Joseph Daily	Canton	Harriett Bartlet	Wintonbury
David Humphrey	Canton	Phoebe Bishop	Farmington
Warren C. Humphrey	Canton	Eliza Bishop	Farmington
Emerson A Phelps	Avon	Mary A Case	Simsbury
		Maria Clarke	Granby
		Catherine E Gillet	Avon
		Helen Goodwin	Simsbury
		Rachel Humphrey	Canton
		Susan E Latimer	Windsor
		Caroline A Marshall	Avon
		Sophronia Mills	Canton

1833

Augustus Barber	Farmington	Asenath Abbe	Simsbury
Lucian Barber	Canton	Augusta Barber	Farmington
Luke Case	Simsbury	Hermoine Barton	Granby
David Humphrey	Canton	Mary Case	Simsbury
Emerson A Phelps	Avon	Adelia Church	Granby
Rufus Tuller	Canton	Betsey Gillet	Simsbury
Abner Whittlesley	Farmington	Mariette Hosford	Canton
		Sarah M'Lean	Simsbury
		Jane Pettibone	Simsbury
		Annis E Strong	Granby
		Caroline St. John	Simsbury
		Harriet Whittesey	Farmington

1835 Summer Session

Chloe Hoskins	Simsbury
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1848-49

James M Cadwell	Bloomfield	Esther I Alderman	Granby
Amasa Prosser	Bloomfield	Mary A Jewett	Granby
		Harriet L Thompson	Farmington

1852

James Cram	Tariffville	Helen M Case	Canton
Robert E Ensign	Hartland	Eliza J Eells	Simsbury
James Talcot	West Hartford	Cornelia L Tuller	Simsbury

1853

T A Wilcox	Granby	Eliza J Eells	Simsbury
		Martha P Hayes	Granby
		Isabella P Mather	Simsbury
		Mary L Wilcox	Granby

*School  
directories can  
sometimes help  
us discover how  
our ancestors  
happened to  
meet.*

Westfield Academy.

## Samuel Wilcox(son) 1640(?)-1713

**Sergt. Samuel Wilcoxson** was the sixth named Patentee of Simsbury. He is believed to have been born about 1640 and died in Simsbury 12 Mar 1712/13. He was one of ten children of William Wilcoxson and his wife, Margaret who came to America in April 1635 aboard *Planter*. Samuel is mentioned as being from Hartford although his parents had settled in Stratford. He was a Sergeant in the Simsbury Trainband serving with the militia periodically from May 1689 to May 1712. He was a distinguished citizen of Simsbury, living at Meadow Plain and one often comes across his name in town records where he acts as town attorney in many land transfers. His branch of the family dropped the final syllable of the name and became Wilcox.

Although the name of Samuel's wife is unknown he had four proven children:

1. **Samuel, jun** b. 15 Apr 1666 (Windsor) d. 17 Sept 1713 m. **Thankfull Mindwell Griffen** had **Hannah** b. 1 Nov 1692; **Samuel** b. 20 Apr 1695; **John** b. 10 Apr 1698; **Joseph** b. 3 Jul 1701; **Mindwell** b. 1704 and **Ephraim** b. 4 Feb 1707.
2. **William** d. 22 Mar 1733 (Simsbury) m. **Elizabeth Wilson** in Simsbury 18 Jan 1699/1700 and had: **Elizabeth** b. 11 Oct 1700; **William** b. 22 Apr 1702; **Martha** b. 30 Oct 1704; **Azariah** b. 27 July 1706; **Amos** b. 20 Feb 1708/9; **Mary** b. abt 1713 **Daniel** b. 17 Jan 1717.
3. **Joseph** m. **Abigail Thrall** in Simsbury 29 Apr 1703 and had: **Abigail** (birthdate unknown) died 30 Jan 1713. **Joseph** b. 9 Feb 1705/6; a **daughter** (name unknown) b. 10 Aug 1709; **Sarah** b. 2 Apr 1712; **Hezekiah** b. 25 Jun 1713; **Abigail** b. 15 Dec 1715; (twins) **Nathaniel** and **Marcy** b. 5 Sept 1719.
4. **Margaret** dies possibly in childbirth of son **Benoni** b. 7 Dec 1714/15.

*Among the sources used to prepare this article were: Mainwaring's Early CT Probate Records, Simsbury Town Records, Woodbridge's Church Records, Noah Phelps' History of Simsbury, Granby and Canton, Barber's History of Simsbury and Jacobus' History and Genealogy of Old Fairfield.*

*(Editor's note: My cousin, Bruce Henry, recently discovered that he is related to Samuel Wilcoxson through his great-grandfather who married my great-grandmother's sister and now he is interested in Simsbury)*

**ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF ANY OF THE ORIGINAL PATENTEES OR  
SETTLERS OF SIMSBURY? WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

*This series on  
the early settlers  
of Simsbury  
will continue in  
our next issue  
with Thomas  
Barber and  
James Cornish.*

Sam<sup>l</sup> Willcockson sen<sup>r</sup>

There is one Parcell of Land layd out = which 3<sup>d</sup> parcell of Land being  
 Within the Bounds of the Township of Simsbury is situate towards  
 Farmington Bounds. Lyes Southw<sup>ly</sup> of a swampy piece of Land the 3<sup>d</sup>  
 Sam<sup>l</sup> Willcockson had afore laid out to him. This 3<sup>d</sup> Parcell of  
 Land now laid to the 3<sup>d</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Willcockson Sen<sup>r</sup> Belongs to him his Heirs  
 and assigns for ever and is quantitie Fifty Acres. be it more or less  
 Being in length seventy rods at the South end. thirty eight rods in Breadth  
 at the North end thirty rods in Breadth North abuts on the path way that  
 leads unto the marshes west east and South on the Commons extracted from  
 records folio 63 lib A

Land in Simsbury in the county of Hartford in the colony of Connecticut in  
 New England Belonging to Sam<sup>l</sup> Willcockson and his son Sam<sup>l</sup> Willcockson  
 given to them at a town meeting of the Inhabitants of Simsbury in the  
 year one thousand five hundred ninety five by J<sup>o</sup> Grant being Twenty eleven  
 a piece being part thereof Marsh Land and part upland. laid out at three  
 places. the first parcell being situate up the hill under the mountain  
 eastward of the brooke that runnes into cherries pond Bounded round by the  
 upland taking in the spruce swampe or the length being five scores and seven rods  
 at North end about 80 rods in Breadth. upwards of Twenty. at South end said land  
 some of it being W<sup>est</sup> Land. I dooed it forty acres = The second parcell  
 is W<sup>est</sup> of Joseph Cafes Land under the mountain. from a walnut tree which  
 I markt to the hill it was thirty foure rodde in Breadth. from thence in a  
 Northward by five score rods the North end in Breadth twenty foure rods in  
 over the Brooke 3<sup>d</sup> Land W<sup>est</sup> side bounded by the hill. the whol of 3<sup>d</sup> parcell bounded  
 by the commons. but by reason of the Barring the hill allowed for Twenty acres  
 then laid out to them five acres in the marsh on the same Brooke that Joseph  
 Cafes that 3<sup>d</sup> Land is on. the Breadth from the Brook westward is twenty foure  
 rods. the length Southward from Joseph Cafes to the 3<sup>d</sup> Rodde. being five acres. North  
 bounded by Joseph Cafes Lott east by the Brook. South and west by the commons  
 Which 3<sup>d</sup> three Parcells is by estimation. forty acres be it more or less  
 layd out to me John Slater Survey<sup>r</sup>. and extracted from Simsbury records  
 lib A folio 218 January 21<sup>st</sup> 1700 by John Slater Reg<sup>r</sup>  
 This about 3<sup>d</sup> parcels of Land recorded is allotted  
 to and subscribed too by the Select men of Simsbury this

## SIMSBURY, CT MARRIAGES

*\* Listed in the same order as in the original book in Simsbury Town Records*

Date	Names	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
July 31, 1851	George Best Jr	25	Factory Worker	England
	Catharine Turnbull	17		Scotland
July 21, 1851	George McCay	24	Teamster	Ireland
	Mary Riley	22		Scotland
Feb. 23, 1851	George Taylor	22	Factory Worker	England
	Mary Hemingway	20	"	
Mar. 1 (?) 1851	Thomas Boone	28	Wool Spinner	Ireland
	Emily Montague	37		America
Aug 19, 1850	Thomas Petterson	22	Factory Worker	Ireland
	Mary Ferguson	21	"	
Nov. 25, 1850	Giles Smith	25	Carpenter	America
	Agnes Turnbull	19		Scotland
Jany 4 1851	James Brown	35	Factory Worker	Ireland
	Elizabeth McRoy	25	"	
Sept. 16 1850	Martin Garety	25	Factory Worker	"
	Mary Fee	24	"	
July 20 1850	John Gray	20	Factory Worker	"
	Catharine Simpson	18	"	
August 10 1851	Ralph G. Bates			
	Jerusha Watson			
Aug. 17 1851	George Hildreth			
	Sarah Ann McCune			
Sept 11 1851	Nathaniel B. Stephens		Merchant	
	Mary P. Phelps			
Aug. 3 1851	John McKenna			
	Bridget Conway			
Aug 16 1851	Bernard Conway			
	Jane Donnelly			
Sept 14 1851	Philip Burns			
	Mary Slammon			
Sept 14 1851	James Bennett			
	Catherine Keely			
Sept 18 1851	Lorenzo Peck		Merchant	
	Harriet W. Kendall			
Sept 22 1851	James Smith Jr.		Factory Laborer	
	Ann E. Best			
Sept 21 1851	John McLaughlin		Factory Worker	
	Mary O'Reilly			
Sept 28 1851	Richard Park			
	Agnes Vine			

*This list will be continued in future editions of the Newsletter*

## 1800 Census of Simsbury, Connecticut

*Continued from May 1996 issue*

Name	Page # 240	Name	Page #241
Benajah Humphrey		Jacob Fuller	
Grove Case		Roswell Fuller	
Elisha Case		Thadeus Fuller	
Lyman Case		Abraham Moses, jun	
Isaac Caller		Ruthuel (?) Barber	
Iethan (?) Case		Joab Barber	
Thos Alderman		Mary Barber	
Jeramiah Smith		Ezekial Tully	
Richard Humphrey		Alexd Phelps	
Gardner Humphrey		Jonon Andrus	
Isaac Case		Joseph Case	
Isaac Case, Jr.		Chancy Case	
Ambrose Case		Aron Case	
Asa Priest		James Smith	
Isaac Higley		Elijah Wilcox	
Danl Olmstead		Elijah Wilcox, jun	
Thos Lyden		Alexander Allen	
Benj. Alderman		Asa Willcox	
Joel Barber		Elias Pettibone	
Abigail Barber		Danl K Cornish	
		Jedediah Case	

*Did you know  
that this was the  
first Federal  
census to  
list free, white  
males and  
females by age  
group?*

Name	Page #242	Name	Page #243
Horatio Case		Luke Case	
Jedediah Case, jun		Grove Case	
Elinor Waters		John Terry	
Wait Latimore		Timothy Terry	
Elisha Tuller		Richard Andrus	
Jonon C. Tuller		Saml Adams	
Levi Latimore		Campbel Humphrey	
Wm Andrus jun		Job Higley	
Abel Tuller		Saml Terry	
John Lewis		Danl Humphrey	
Bartholomew Case, jun		Amasa Case	
Danl Phelps		Levi Tuller	
Frederick Phelps		Joel Griswold	
Aron Cadwell		Martha Adams	
James Slater		Mathew Adams	
Stephen Goodrul		Abel Adams	
Ezekiel Roberts		Abel Eno	
Ariel Case		Abel Eno 2d	
Frederick Case		Anna Eno	
		Iva Eo	
		Oliver Eno	
		Isaac Eno	

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## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

*History of Ancient Woodbury Connecticut* by William Cuthren

*Families of Early Milford, Connecticut* by Susan Woodruff Abbott

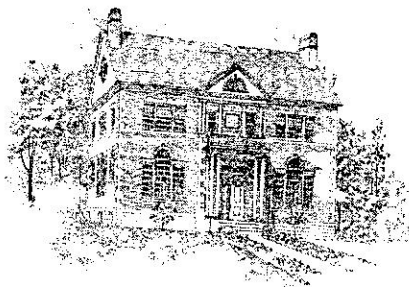
*Modernization in a New England Town: A History of Willington, Connecticut*  
by Ronald F. Demers

*East Hartford: Its History and Traditions* by Joseph O. Goodwin

*How to Locate Anyone Who is or Has Been in the Military* by Lt. Col. Richard S. Johnson

*Digging for Genealogical Treasure in New England Town Records* by Ann Smith Lainhart

*State Census Records* by Ann S. Lainhart



### SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY

749 Hopmeadow St. (next to cemetery)

P.O. Box 484

Simsbury, CT 06070

860 658-5382

Open Thurs-Sat 10 AM - 3 PM

*Stephen E. Simon, Librarian*

*Dawn Hutchins Bobryk, Newsletter Editor*

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