

President's Letter

Greetings to All,

We were off to a slow start in 2022 due to COVID (again). We did have to cancel a few of the events scheduled in early 2022, however, now that Spring is finally here and the weather is getting warmer, we are back on track. Spring is an especially beautiful time of the year in Guilford. We are starting to gear up for our 75th Anniversary celebration that will take place in June. We are truly excited to come together again to run our programs, open our museums and get back to normal.

The GKS board is always busy with various maintenance projects that are required at the Medad Stone Tavern and the Thomas Griswold House. We depend on help from volunteers to assist us in these endeavors and are so appreciative of all the help we receive from the membership and other town organizations who really step up to help us with various projects and events.

We have included our calendar of events for your reference and hope you can join us for these. Our summer camps are on track for this year, and they are already sold out! It is always great to get out and get together with our wonderful membership.

Yours,

Bob Hartmann, Jr.



Call for Volunteers

We would first like to thank all the volunteers from our membership and the Guilford community who have helped us in the past with the various projects required to keep our museums available for the enjoyment of all of us.

Some of these projects or tasks are on-going or seasonal in nature. If you can volunteer your help for future projects, tasks, or events, please contact us at: (203) 453-2263.

Some of the work we need assistance with are as follows:

- Clean-up projects on the grounds (Spring/Fall clean-up at MST and TGH)
- Assistance with indoor cleaning at MST and TGH
- Docents at Museums (GKS will provide training)
- Mailings
- Assistance at our Tag Sales



Yay, Spring is Here!

MISSION STATEMENT: The Guilford Keeping Society collects, preserves, and shares the history and heritage of Guilford, Connecticut for present and future generations.

Box 363, Guilford, CT 06437 (203)-453-2263. Registered 501(C)3 Non-Profit

Guilford Keeping Society Celebrates 75 Years of Historic Preservation

Guilford history will come alive at the Guilford Keeping Society's 75th Anniversary Celebration on June 11, an outdoor party featuring food, music, and wine on the grounds of the Thomas Griswold House, 171 Boston St.

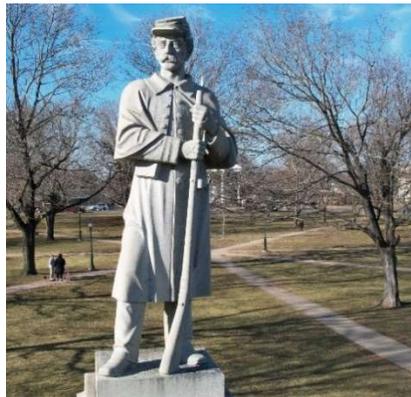
Founded in 1947 by Guilford residents determined to preserve our town's remarkable collection of historic homes, the Keeping Society operates the Griswold House and the Medad Stone Tavern on Three Mile Course. The Griswold House was built by blacksmith Thomas Griswold in 1764 and represents a classic New England saltbox structure with historic outbuildings. The Medad Stone Tavern, a Dutch gambrel-style building constructed in 1803, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been restored to its original condition. It was originally intended to be a way station for travelers between Boston and New York. Long occupied as a private dwelling, the Medad Stone Tavern was generously left to the Keeping Society by the late Len Hubbard in 2001.

The 75th Anniversary Celebration will highlight current Keeping Society initiatives including the reconstruction of a bridge leading to the Tavern and a new barn planned for the Griswold House grounds.

The Celebration will run from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. and feature music by the Shoreline Jazz Quartet, wine, and hors d'oeuvres provided by the Market Place, including a Tuscan

table. Tours of the Griswold House, Woodworking Barn, and Blacksmith Shop will also be provided. There will also be a silent auction including a catered dinner for eight. Tickets will cost \$75 in advance, or purchase, \$85 the day of event. Please visit GKS web site for information about purchasing tickets in advance.

2022 GKS Ornament - Preview of Coming Attractions.



Drone Photo of Soldier's Monument

The Soldiers' Monument is the basis for the GKS 2022 pewter ornament. The monument honors Civil War veterans and stands at the center of the Guilford Green. The ornament, like the monument, features a Union infantry soldier standing with a rifle in his hands. It is based on a James G. Batterson design; however, the design was modified. The contract for the base was given to John Beattie, who constructed it of pink granite from the local Leete's Island quarry. The base was dedicated in 1877.

In 1874 the contract was given to the Thomas Phillips & Sons in New Haven to produce a soldier figure of Quincy, Massachusetts granite. The Guilford Soldiers' Monument is unique in that it was produced by two different suppliers using two

colors of granite, done ten years apart, based on a design by a third party.

A second dedication was held on June 2, 1887 with numerous dignitaries in attendance including Connecticut's Governor, United States Senators, representatives of the Grand Army of the Republic and many others. The entire cost was \$2,585.

Photographs were taken by JA2 Aerial Productions, owned by Jason Heinz and Angelo Appi Jr. it was a team effort with Angelo and Jason, a Guilford High School graduate, flying the drone and snapping the photos. Hampshire Pewter's artist is currently working on the wax model. Hoping to have the 2022 ornament for the 75th Anniversary Celebration in June.



Drone Photo of the Soldiers' Monument



Ornaments for sale at GKS Museums

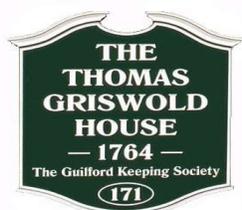
Community Tag Sale and Bake Sale - Saturday, May 14th (rain date Sunday, May 15th)

We will again be having our annual Community Tag Sale on Saturday, May 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (with a rain date of Sunday, May 15th). This will take place on the grounds of the Thomas Griswold House on Boston Street.

If you would like to rent a space for selling your own items, please call Sue at 203-453-1255. The price for a 20' x 18' space is \$20 (\$15 for Guilford Keeping Society members).

It is a fun day, and we will again have D & S Hot Dogs' Food Truck for delicious food choices. GKS will have a Bake Sale table and we would love baked goods donations from our membership. Please contact Susan Smith at (203-535-4345) to sign up for baked goods donations.

This event is one of the ways we make money for the upkeep of our two historic buildings, the Thomas Griswold House, and the Medad Stone Tavern (and their grounds and outbuildings). We will not be asking for donations for a GKS Tag Sale table this year. So come rent a space and sell your own items. It is a fun day with many bargains to be had. For more information, call Sue Stoddard at (203-453-1255) or visit the GKS website at www.guilfordkeepingsociety.com



2021 Tag Sale at TGH

The GKS William Weld Exhibit moves to the Henry Whitfield State Museum

The William Weld Architecture exhibit about his buildings in Guilford is on loan for the coming year to the Henry Whitfield State Museum. Due to the Covid Pandemic not many visitors were able to see it at the Thomas Griswold House Museum last season. This exhibit contains a list of Weld homes and buildings in Guilford, architectural drawings, photos of the houses and a wonderful painting of William Weld loaned by Stephen Dudley, GKS Board Member and third great grandson of William Weld. It also includes examples of tools used by builders during the time period of Weld's buildings.

William E. Weld (1815–1902) was Guilford's master builder during the ante-bellum period in Guilford history, beginning in 1839 when he built his first dwelling house. Over the next 40+ years, he built over 35 houses in Guilford alone, introducing the Greek Revival and Villa styles. Remarkably, Mr. Weld drafted his own architectural plans for most of the houses, including

plans sub-contracted to the celebrated Connecticut architect, Henry Austin. Weld also operated a lumber yard from his home on Boston Street. He was prominent in civic affairs until his death.



William Weld House - 45 Boston St.

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Guilford Keeping Society
P.O. Box 363
Guilford, CT 06437

Return Receipt Requested



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Guilford Keeping Society Newsletter • Spring 2022

Date	Event
May 14	Tag Sale and Bake Sale at TGH
May 30	Memorial Day picnic at TGH
June 4	Museums Open
June 11	CT Museum Open House
June 11	75th Anniversary Celebration at TGH
July 15 - 17	Selling ornaments and Handcraft Expo
July 7 - 15	American Girl Doll Camp at MST
August 8 - 12	Colonial Camp at TGH
September 16 - 18	Fair Parking at TGH
September 24	Beer Tasting at MST
November 16	Annual Meeting
December 11	Holiday High Tea at the Tavern
January 1 (2023)	New Year's Day Reception at the Tavern

**Events subject to change*

GUILFORD KEEPING SOCIETY

THE
 75th

ANNIVERSARY
 CELEBRATION

Thomas Griswold House
 171 Boston St, Guilford, CT

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022, 4-7PM
 SHORELINE JAZZ QUARTET
 SILENT AUCTION WINE BEER
 HORS D'OEUVRES

ADVANCED PURCHASE TICKET \$75 AT THE DOOR \$85
 WWW.GUILFORDKEEPINGSOCIETY.COM