



Norwalk Museum News

NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BACK-TO-SCHOOL ISSUE 2026

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

VISIT OUR MUSEUMS



MILL HILL HISTORIC PARK

Tour historic 18th and 19th century buildings, the 1767 burying ground and a colonial herb garden. Located at 2 East Wall Street, Norwalk.



NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

View exhibits, artwork, and artifacts from Norwalk's history. The gift shop offers a distinctive array of merchandise. Located at 141 East Avenue in Norwalk, on the City Hall campus.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- Info on hours and tickets
- Calendar of events
- News about our exhibits
- Research materials

www.norwalkhistoricalsociety.org



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The Harvest from Mill Hill's Colonial Herb Garden



Mill Hill's colonial herb garden showcases plants commonly found in an 18th century "kitchen garden." Some of the plants used by the colonists were brought from Europe. Others, like yarrow and sassafras, were native to America, and the colonists learned how to use them from indigenous people. Many plants served multiple purposes. Parsley, for example, was chewed to freshen breath, used as a seasoning, made into a health tonic, and boiled to produce a green dye. Plants like those described below were valued for their culinary, medicinal, and household purposes.

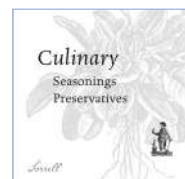


A REENACTOR DISPLAYS A COLLECTION OF HERBS INCLUDING LAVENDER, USED FOR SACHETS.



Culinary

Basil, parsley, chives, and rosemary were used for seasoning. Nasturtiums were added to salads, and bee balm was used as a tea substitute after the Boston Tea Party.



Medicinal

Tonics
Ointments
Antiseptics

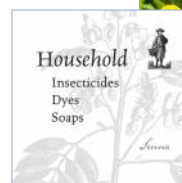
Lowell

Medicinal

Yarrow was applied to wounds to stop bleeding. It was also used to brew a medicinal tea. Mint tea was considered a remedy for nausea. Feverfew leaves were believed to prevent headaches.

Household

Fibers in flax stems were used to produce linen. Tansy was used as an insect repellent. Sweet woodruff freshened the air. Woad, santolina, and other plants could be used to make dyes in a variety of colors. Lavender, violets, and lemon balm were valued for their fragrance and were used as aromatics.



When All Grades Met in One Room

In the early 1970s, Norwalk's historic 1826 one-room schoolhouse known as the "Downtown District School House" was threatened by demolition to make way for the Connecticut Turnpike. The Norwalk Historical Society acted quickly to save and move the School House to Mill Hill Historic Park in 1971, and the rest is history.

Teachers may arrange for their classes to visit Mill Hill for a Little Red Schoolhouse tour. Students are able to explore the schoolhouse and learn about a typical school day in the mid-1800s. What subjects were taught? What school supplies were used? How did children have fun during recess?



At the Museum

The Paintings of Addison Thomas Millar and Hamilton Hamilton



FOG WARNING

HAMILTON HAMILTON

Hamilton Hamilton (1847-1928) was an English-born landscape artist who also created etchings. He spent time in Brittany, France as well as New York, Colorado, and California. He settled in Norwalk in 1912. Five of Hamilton's works are currently on display at the Museum including *Fog Warning*, a rare etching of Winslow Homer's work of the same name. Hamilton and Homer must have been friends as Homer signed the etching.

Addison Thomas Millar (1860-1913) was born in Ohio and started painting lessons while still in primary school. In his twenties, he continued his studies in New York, then moved to Paris to study at the Academie Julian. In 1895, he visited Algiers, a trip which would provide inspiration for many of his best-known works. Later in his career, he moved to Silvermine.



ALGERIAN STREET ADDISON THOMAS MILLAR

Both of these painters were members of the "Knockers Club" a group of artists who would meet to critique or "knock" one another's work. This group later became the Silvermine Guild of Artists.



Mark Your Calendar

The Turtle: America's Revolutionary War Submarine Saturday, October 17, 2:00 p.m. at Mill Hill

Historian Mark Albertson will discuss this amazing vessel, invented, designed and built here in Connecticut. Invented and built by David Bushnell, the Turtle was piloted by Sgt. Ezra Lee in an attack on the flagship of the British North American fleet, HMS Eagle, the first such attack against an enemy ship in history.

