

## **ON-SITE: What Stories Do Primary Sources Tell Us About How People Lived?**

### **Standard(s)/Unit Goal(s) to be addressed in this lesson:**

H/SS.3.12 Explain how objects or artifacts of everyday life in the past tell us how ordinary people lived and how everyday life has changed.

RI.3.7 Use Information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

### **What are some of the items in the Westport Historical Society collection?**

The collection of the Westport Historical Society contains many artifacts of life in Westport over the years. Do you remember what the word “*artifact*” means from reading Chapter One? Some of these items include points— or, arrowheads— farm tools, school books, clothing, photographs, paintings, and many other items.

These objects tell a story about the people who used them and the times that they lived in. They are one form of a *primary source*, which is an original document or object that was written or created during the time being studied. For example, a will is a primary source because it was created during the time that is being studied and as such can offer an insider's view. We mentioned earlier that the Cadman-White-Handy House is the most important object in the collection of the Historical Society. It is also the largest artifact and primary source object. By looking closely at the building, its design and materials, its history, and its location, we have a better understanding of the first residents, the Cadman-White family.

In the following section, we will describe variety of architectural details found in the original house structure. We will explain the clues that help us accurately date certain details of the house.

Finally, we will demonstrate some of the tools that were used in early 1700s houses and show the students a miniature post and beam house puzzle.