

Volume 1
Issue 1

Website:
www.mendonhistoricalsociety.org

Mendon Historical Society Newsletter

President's Message: A New Home for the Mendon Historical Museum



The 1845 Center Chimney cape built by William Metcalfe and located at 15 Hastings Street was the home of Bernita and Herb DeVries. Through their generous donation this building will be the new location for the Mendon Historical Society A Spring 2018 Opening expected.

Because of the generosity of Berneta and Herman DeVries, the Mendon Historical Society will be relocating its Museum artifacts and Record Room documents to the DeVries former residence at 15 Hastings Street. Before this happens there are several issues which need addressing. Officers and members are in the process of getting estimates for cosmetic work, extended parking, handicapped accessibility and security. Historical Society members will be asked to vote on the expenditures when the estimates become available and will be notified when and where the meeting will take place. It should be noted that the DeVries also left money to accomplish this work.

Jane Lowell

Editorial: A Look Ahead

As the Mendon Historical Society begins a new chapter in its 121st year so many things have changed since it was first established in 1896. One of the greatest challenges we face today is how to improve accessibility to the society's growing collection of documents and artifacts. Presently members spend many hours researching and visiting with families from around the country who are in search of their family roots. The digitization of records and documents is a significant project and work has begun to prioritize collections for conversion to digital formats.

We are so fortunate to have received the gift of a facility that will offer us the space needed to improve access to our collection and provide valuable work space to sort through and catalog all of our acquisitions. This new building also gives us the opportunity to host events and schedule improved hours of operation. Having bathroom and kitchen facilities at our disposal is an added bonus as we have had neither at the Museum or Records Room. This opportunity is something we had never dreamed of but here we are amazed and a bit overwhelmed with what lies ahead. The road to preparing the new facility will involve moving, organizing and displaying our collection. It will be several months of steady work. In the meantime we are working on setting up new programs for our members and the community for the upcoming year.

As a Society we have so much to offer our community to help keep our history alive and vibrant. In order to achieve this we would like to reach out to our members to bring their talents and passion to help us embark on this path. Whether you can volunteer a few hours a month to scan documents, research, organize programs or even help with the upkeep of our new facility we are, as they say “all ears”.

We hope that this new beginning is one we can share with our members. It is a very exciting opportunity for the Mendon Historical Society and we would like to grow and strengthen our membership as we begin this new journey. We hope you will consider joining us.

And that is looking ahead.....

Digital Commonwealth

Digital Commonwealth is a non-profit organization that provides resources and services to support creating, managing, and disseminating cultural heritage materials held by Massachusetts’ institutions. The materials are digitized by the Boston Public Library, as part of the Library for the Commonwealth program. (Massachusetts state budget line item 7000-9401). The collections are placed online at the website <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>. These services are provided at no charge.

You can read more about the partnership between Digital Commons and the Boston Public library in their blog, <http://blog.bpl.org/dcbpl/>

On June 29 Jake Sadow, Digitization Project Archivist at the Boston Public Library visited the record room to explain the program, viewed some of our collections, and gave advice on the types of documents which can be included in the Digital Commonwealth project, such as photographs, maps, and individual documents.

Each organization can submit approximately 50 bound volumes (15,000 pages) or 5,000 individual items from no more than 5 distinct collections. Flat items will be digitized by the Digital Commonwealth project, and placed on the website above. In addition, the society will receive a backup file of the digitized item on a portable hard drive. The Historical Society will provide a description of each item, which will be used when searching the site. Bound books will be digitized by Internet Archive in their scan center within the Boston Public Library, and will appear on the Internet Archive website under a dedicated page for the Society. Suggestions for items to be included are the John Metcalf collection, the Revolutionary War, The Society for Detecting Horse Thieves Collection, Lake Nipmuc Collection, and School Photographs.

Please let us know if there are other collections you would like to include.

Historical Society Members Jane Lowell, Lisa Lepore and Kathy Schofield and Taft Library Director Andrew Jenrich, Town Clerk Margaret Bonderenko and Taft Library Genealogy Assistant Phyllis Foley met with the Roving Archivist Rachel Onuf to learn more about coordinating efforts to preserve and catalog the Town’s collection of documents and records.



Mendon Historical Meetings and Events

The Historical Society is looking forward to continuing the 2017 Year of Celebration recognizing Mendon's 350th Birthday. The programs this year are devoted to Mendon history. 2016 "Seniors of the Year" Dick Grady and John Trainor, avid historians, have created a series of ten video documentaries beginning with the early colonization of Massachusetts in 1620, progressing to the settlement of Nipmuck Plantation in 1662 and ending with present day Mendon.

Looking ahead to 2018 The Historical Society is in the process of researching new programs for the upcoming year. We are always interested in your suggestions so please contact the Historical Society if there is a program you would like us to host.

The Remaining 2017 Schedule of Events:

September 12, 2017 Mendon's Rollercoaster Ride (1846-1928)

September 19, 2017 Annual Meeting of the Historical Society Unitarian Church
13 Maple Street, 7pm all are welcomed to attend

October 10, 2017 Video Walking Tour of Mendon's Old Cemetery

November 14, 2017 A Great Generation Mendon During the Great Depression, WW II and Post WWII

(Date to be announced) Present Day Mendon (Post WW II to Present)

All presentations are held at 7pm at the Unitarian Church 13 Maple Street Mendon.

Refreshments will be served – We hope you will be able to join us as we finish our rich and remarkable journey of 350 years in the history of our Town.



Mendon 350th Celebration Events

August:

In addition to the Historical Society Presentations we encourage our membership to enjoy the remaining events in our Town's 350th Celebration. For a complete schedule and more information visit the 350th Celebration website at www.mendon350.com.

September:

September 16, 2017 3-9pm Farm to Table Festival Memorial Park

September 23, 2017 Formal Banquet and Dance Time TBA Grand View Ballroom

September 24, 2017 1PM Grande Finale Parade Miscoe School to Clough School

Historic Plaque Program



The Mendon Historic Plaque Program, made possible through a generous donation by the Mendon Historical Society continues to generate interest. We are pleased to see the applications continue to come in. The success of the Plaque Program rests in the hands of Patrice Doucette who tirelessly researches the deeds for all the applications. The Society is indebted to her for all of her time and energy keeping up with the applications. To date we have 15 Plaques posted and 15 more on the way. Karen Mullen at Signs Plus in Milford designed these attractive plaques.

The Historic Plaque Program will continue throughout the year. For more information visit our website at: www.mendonhistoricalsociety.org.

Donations

Monetary donations made to the Mendon Historical Society are used to preserve, to educate, and to make available to the public, the history of Mendon. This year several historic documents were taken to Green Dragon Bindery in Shrewsbury for repair and preservation work. Your donations made this work possible. Donations also made it possible for the Society to present informative and educational programs such as "WE THE PEOPLE – A Mendon Mini-Series" presented by John Trainor and Dick Grady, and the Doris Daniels Cox presentation given by Kathy Schofield. Donations also go towards the upkeep of the buildings currently used by the society, the Record Room and the Mendon Historical Society Museum and the new location at 15 Hastings Street, all historic buildings.

The society would like to thank the following people for their generous donations made during 2016-2017.

James and Patricia Ghelli
 Bob and Linda Lamothe
 Kenton and Deb Sorenson
 Wayne and Ellen Wagner
 Bernita and Herb DeVries
 Justine Brewer
 Joan Caldarella
 Marc and Amy DeWitt
 Paul and Patrice Doucette

Beverly Fior
 Alison Franks
 Ruth and Rich Cassinelli
 John and Uta Gannett Jr.
 Jane and David Lowell
 Fred Phipps
 Rich and Kathy Schofield
 The Family of Doug Taylor

The society also accepts donations of artifacts to our collection pertaining to the history of the town of Mendon and its citizens. The Historical Society welcomes the support and participation of all.

Recent Acquisitions:

In the past year the Society was pleased to recently accept the generous donations of memorabilia and family history artifacts from sisters Deb (Leclaire) Moreau and Trudy (Leclaire) Palmer. Pricilla Koopman donated Henry Clough

material. Richard Skinner donated a musket ball and shot that he found on his property.

The Wood Family Bible donated by Stephanie Lynn Leshner of California.

The Taft Family Bible received by Ellen and Wayne Wagner and donated to the museum.

Several items including a Stanley Gardner Florist Ash Tray, Aerial photographs and Starett Tool Company tokens donated by Paul Doucette.

A Photo of the Aldrich Family and Family History donated by Elizabeth Van Ness and family of Westboro.

Remembrances:

The Mendon Historical Society would like to remember those in our community who are no longer with us. Many who have given so much of their time and talent to our Town and community and who have supported the Historical Society for many years. Those we would like to recognize are lifelong resident General Wayne Wagner and longtime member Judith Collin.

Volunteer Opportunities and A Special Thanks to Our Former Officers

The Historical Society would like to send a special Thanks to members Arlene Reed and Sue Ober. Both have donated countless hours to the Society - Arlene as Curator, President and Treasurer and Sue as Curator and Treasurer. We are so appreciative of all the work you have done.

High Priority Volunteer Help Needed:

The Historical Society is in desperate need of skilled work and labor donations as we work to get the new museum up and running. There is a growing list of tasks and help needed as we prepare to make way into our new home. Let us know if there is something / anything you might like to do.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events please contact any of the members listed below.

The Historical Society through its research has located some remarkable programs that may be available to us. The Memories Roadshow and Local Antique Roadshow are two wonderful programs that we would like to further investigate.

Additional programs we would like to explore are a Historic Holiday House Fundraising Tour.

A volunteer group to coordinate the 15 Hastings Street Open House would be wonderful.

Our Mission

The Mendon Historical Society is a nonprofit organization created in 1896 and incorporated in 1909. It is dedicated to protecting and preserving Mendon's documents, buildings and items of historical significance.

The Society is the custodian of the Mendon Historical Museum at Founders Park and the Record Room at 13 Main Street.

Donations to our collection pertaining to the history of the town of Mendon and its citizens are gratefully accepted.

The Society welcomes the support and participation of all.

The Mendon Historical Society Officers meet on a monthly basis.

In addition to our Presentations the Historical Society Members meet quarterly throughout the year. Those dates are published in the newsletter and on the Historical Society Website at: mendonhistoricalsociety.org. All future meetings will be held at our new location at 15 Hastings Street, Mendon, MA. 01756 unless otherwise indicated.

OFFICERS:

President: Jane Lowell
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Treasurer: Paul Doucette
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Vice President: Amy DeWitt
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Secretary and Correspondence
 Coordinator: Ruth Cassinelli
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Assistant Vice President: Kathy
 Schofield
kemscho@yahoo.com
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Document / Collection
 Administration Patrice Doucette and
 Lisa Lepore

Curator: Vacant Position
 Librarian: Vacant Position

Program Volunteers: Sue Ober,
 Arlene Reed.

SOCIETY MEMBERS AT WORK AND PLAY



Recipient
Address
City, State, Zip Code

Mendon Historical Society

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Mendon, MA 01756