

WINDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

234 WINDHAM CENTER RD., WINDHAM, ME 04062

www.windhamhistorical.org – 207-892-1433

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2014

From the editor:

Spring is always a hectic, but fun, time for the Society. The herb garden comes to life again, dust is cleared away and we open our 1833 brick museum for another year.

This year has been extremely difficult in that while we were holding meetings, presenting programs and doing research, some of our members who are focused on development of the Village Green, have been working with the town's regulatory boards, the school union and engineers to do the vital preparatory work. This meant extra expenses, many meetings and reports

Linda Griffin, Jim Hanscom, Dave Tanguay and Walter Lunt, among others, have devoted hundreds of hours to the expansion plans and spent many evenings at the municipal meetings.

In the words of one third grader who wrote a thank you note to Walter Lunt after his "history tour",

"I think the Windham History Society had a good idea of making a park so kids can feel and see what it was like a long time ago in Windham."

Kay Soldier, Editor



Carolyn Lawson describes the purpose of the U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. This April program was well-attended and fascinating



Thank you to all the Society members who helped make the 2014 Historical Society Plant Sale another great success! This year's fundraiser brought in more than \$1200! We received a wide variety of perennials & herbs – Bleeding Heart, Pink & White Lily of the Valley, Feverfew, Crested Irises, Sweet Cecily, Campion Rose, Solomon Seal to name a few. Evidently, we have a reputation as a must attend plant sale, as the cars started to pull up just after 8 a.m. (we advertised to open at 9 a.m. and by 10:30, approx. 75% of the inventory had been sold.

Society member & Plant Expert, Harrison Wood, joined us again this year. Many customers "tapped" his knowledge: what types of plants work well in sun or shade, advice on care of plants, etc. We are thankful the weather cooperated throughout most of the day.

A special thanks to Cooper's Greenhouse, Chute Road in Windham for the gorgeous hanging plant and to Lowe's in North Windham for their continuous donation of annuals.

Contributed by Susan Simonson

*Wanted:
Volunteers to work in
Our
Herb Garden*

Artisans & Engines

Windham Historical Society's 2nd Annual Artisans on the Green fair coincides with Windham's Summerfest. This event combines historic crafters and exhibitors demonstrating traditional skills of the mid 1800's. These crafts and display items are created using period methods and materials. Several of the crafters will have items for sale. Demonstrations included are: blacksmithing, braided rugs, horse drawn carriage rides, snowshoe re-lacing/binding, caning & weaving chairs, wood & canvas canoe restoration, spinning and many more. Suggested donation is \$5. per person. (Max. \$20/family. Proceeds will be used towards building The Village Green at the Society.

This year's event will also include the Maine Antique Engine group, a display of period engines.

Maine Antique Power Association (MAPA) is dedicated to preserving Maine's mechanical past since 1973. Members collect & restore gasoline/Kerosene engines of all types, including stationary and marine, steam and hot air engines, gas and steam models, air compressors, outboards, lawn mowers, circular saws, wood splitters, churns, grinders, pumps, generators, drag saws, farm and garden tractors. Visit: www.maineantiquepower.org

Come see us on Saturday, June 21st from 9 to 3! Rain date is Sunday, June 22nd. This event is held on the Society grounds, 234 Windham Center Road, just a short walk from Summerfest.

History Preservation Praise

Excerpt from Current Publications' editor, John Balentine, on the event of Westbrook's Together Days and the importance of history:

"While it is great to see a renewed sense of place and pride in Westbrook history, the city is not alone in its efforts to keep history alive. A short paddle up the Presumpscot River (if it were still possible as it was when early settlers first arrived in the 1700's) leads to another town with individuals passionate for saving history.

"The Windham Historical Society has been especially active, especially in recent years, to preserve and protect the town's heritage. Recently the group got the OK from the Planning Board to start what will be called "The Village Green" in Windham Center. The "green" which is the big field near town hall that adjoins the society's headquarters will play host to important buildings in the style of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts or Washburn-Norlands Living History Center in Livermore. The nonprofit is relying mostly on private funding to make the Village Green concept a reality, and it should be commended for its efforts to preserve Windham history, before any more of it is lost to "progress."

President's message...

Well, here we are after 3 ½ long years of surveys, engineering and lawyers, Windham Historical Society's Village Green has finally been approved by the Windham Planning Board.

Since the fall of 2010, we've been making mortgage payments on the Village Green property including the future history house. We've moved a small library from South Windham and we've been given materials from a historic Windham barn.

This week, we started fixing one of the small sheds on the property – it will become a schoolhouse where member and retired teacher Walter Lunt can teach Windham's third graders all about school in the old days.

We need to raise some "big funds" and we need your help once more. We've done extremely well with our annual Christmas Fair, plant sales, yard sales, clean-out of houses, food sales, sale of books, maps and DVDs – it has kept us going. Now we look to you for ideas to create our history park. We cannot afford to hire professional fund raisers and grant writers. Others who have been in similar situations say that in the long run, 80-85% needs to come from private donations.

Do you know of any benefactors who would like to donate? Do you have ideas of how we can raise big funds? If you do – contact me or any of the historical society members.

One idea I had was to buy an antique home (there is a post and beam cape on the Pope Rd that is for sale now for \$67,000) and fix it up using local contractors who would do the work but would wait till the closing to get paid. When the home is restored we would sell it for a profit. That is what Windham Historical Society did over 40 years ago when we got the Bodge House and had it moved from Rt. 202 (where the present South Windham Post Office

is now) to a field for a year and then to the Chute Road. After years of restoration work, Windham Historical sold it to me and received a profit of over \$35,000. These funds were saved and used 30 years later when we bought the future Village Green property, a c1855 Greek Revival cape and 2.5 acres of land (previously owned by the Reeves family).

What are your ideas? Who do you know that we could visit and explain our plans? How can we make this happen?

I'd love to hear your ideas –

Linda Griffin
650-7484



Let there be light

A collection of lanterns, each with its own unique use, will be available for two months. The lanterns are on loan and come from the Estate of Real Tanguay and from David Tanguay.



At the old Knight Burying Ground

Thank you to all who helped with the encampment of the 3rd Maine, Co A Civil War Reenactors who came to Windham over Memorial Day Weekend. From their encampment at the Society's Village Green, they participated in the American Legion sponsored GAR marker replacement at area cemeteries, marched in the parade on Monday and spent a rainy weekend showing visitors a slice of life from the 1860s..

It was an amazing time and a lot of our members worked hard with the local American Legion to make this happen. One highlight of the weekend for many was when the enactors in full uniform went to the Knight Cemetery on the Pope Road and replaced some of the GAR markers on the Civil War veterans' graves. Civil war music

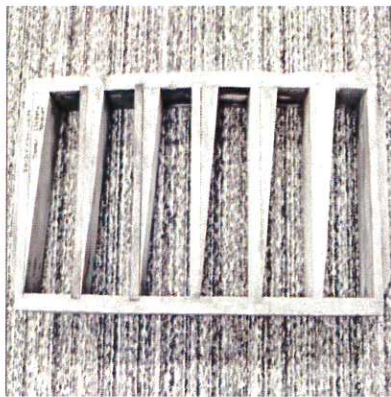
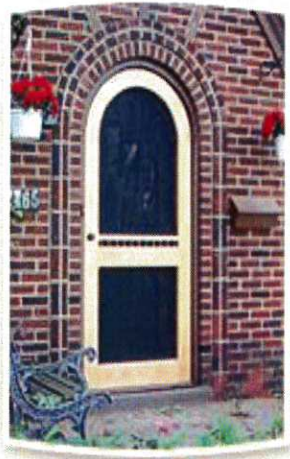
was played by a fife and drum at each grave and a soldier in uniform put the new markers in place. The heavily veiled "widow" all in black, knelt by a stone and one of the soldiers read the Gettysburg Address. It was a moving ceremony, particularly because the grave being marked was that of Daniel Cobb, the great-great-great grandfather of Capt. David Gowen (3rd Maine, Co. A Reenactors). I will never forget this touching moment.

At Arlington Cemetery in North Windham, new markers were placed by some fifth grade students who under the guidance of teacher Sabrina Nickerson, raised \$450 to help pay for the new GAR markers. To help with the memory making, Historical Society member Peter Morgan researched the lives of the soldiers buried there, and the students placing the markers, read the history.

Linda Griffin

*Please give a warm welcome
to Donna Strand,
Volunteer Coordinator:*

'My name is Donna Strand, I am a new member to the society and recently took on the newly created position of volunteer coordinator. My husband, son and I are about 1 year "new" to Windham and have an 1899 home located on Jones Hill Road by Dolby's Funeral Center. We are excited to be able to help when and where we can for the good of preserving history and for keeping Windham the fabulous place it is.'



CURATOR'S CORNER

The wooden structure in the second picture is a brick mold. Note these brick molds are at an angle, that is narrow at the top and wider at the bottom. These bricks are used for above doors and windows like the doorway shown at top. This particular mold was donated by Ursula Baier.

Penny Loura, Curator

Membership News

Welcome to new member,
Alexandra Paige Tetrault,
who is a Life member. She is the great-granddaughter of Charter Member Leonard Sanborn.

Linda Jackson, Massachusetts
Karl Ringel, Windham

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Janet Perrin, 91, formerly of Webb Road in Windham, who died at Gorham House. She, along with her husband, Arthur, was very active in the historical society for many, many years. They lived in the historic Steve Webb house.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Roger Timmons donated 10 bales of hay to be used during construction

- An old calendar from L. C. Andrew was donated by Dave Tanguay
- A Victorian tub and commode was donated by anonymous (Bridgton)
- Larry Clark brought in an old photo of L. C. Andrew store
- Martin Crommie gave us a photo of the Sylvester's Store from about 1928. (His mother's family were the Sylvesters)



The Greatest Generation

On Memorial Day, 2014, some of Windham's World War II veterans get ready to join the parade. Their transport was a horse-drawn wagon donated by Sonny Richards of Nash Road. From the left, Carroll McDonald, Walter Braley (American Legion Post 148 Service Officer), Leonard Sanborn, Paul Nichols, Patrick Lawlor, Thomas Joyce, Bob Miele, John Rollins and Ralph MacDonald. Not in the wagon (yet) was Donald Rogers. He rode with Gary Plummer.



ARTISANS FAIR
SATURDAY, JUNE 21 - 9 am - 3 pm
WINDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Textiles - Blacksmith - Horse-drawn wagon rides - Chair caning & Weaving
 Granite splitting - Wooden Canoes & Paddles - Snowshoe re-lacing & binding
 Spinning - Rug braiding - Toys - more!
Raffles - Museum open



\$5 suggested donation per person/\$20 family

ALSO!
MAPA Antique Engine Show!
 FMI call 892-1433 or
windhamhistorical.org



Good Neighbors.

A Look at the Historic Stone Walls in and About Windham

Stone Walls

By Local Historian, Ray Philpot
Windham Historical Society

July 28th - 7 PM

234 Windham Center Road, Windham

Public Welcome Refreshments
 Suggested Donation: \$5.00



*Something there is that doesn't love a wall, That sends the frozen ground-swell under it,
 And spills the upper boulders in the sun; And makes gaps even two can pass abreast...
He only says, "Good fences make good neighbors." Frost*

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