
 Holliston Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019



This is a picture of the boulder in Old South Burying Ground in Sherborn commemorating the founders of Holliston. Carol Kosicki has written an article that you will find on pages 8 and 9.

Photo from findagrave.com

Dates to Remember.....

September 20— Pie Night (pg. 3)

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December 8—A Christmas Open House

January 18—Pot Luck Dinner

Holliston Historical Society *NEWSLETTER*
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Mary Curran, Editor
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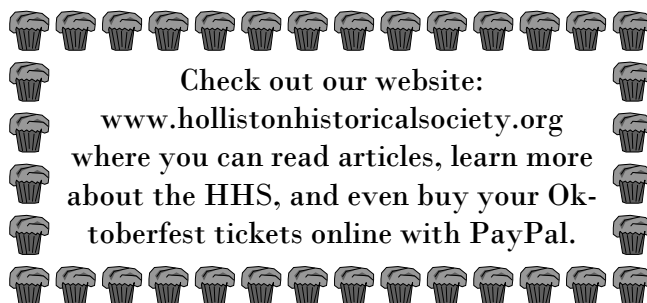
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Decorations	Joanna Hilliard
Harvest Fair	Beate Hait
Oktoberfest	Beate Hait



UPCOMING EVENTS

39th Annual Harvest Fair

Sunday, September 22, 2019
(rain date: September 29
10am-4pm)

It's that time of year when one of our favorite events is coming up, the Harvest Fair. Beate Hait and her committee have been busy recruiting and registering vendors, and planning and organizing events and activities. The Asa Whiting house will be open as well. There are a limited number of handicap accessible parking spaces available near the barn.

But there is a catch! We **REALLY** need volunteers to make our favorite event run smoothly, and be fun and profitable.

There are any number of ways to help. First, come to Pie Night on Friday, September 20th. Peel and chop apples, eat pizza, and socialize! During the Fair, there are many areas for volunteering: serve lunch items, sell beverages or make popcorn, help oversee the Kids Corner activities, staff the silent auction table or, if you can only do an early or a late shift, help set up or clean up! If you can't help that day, you could contribute a baked good for the bake table, dropping that off the day prior.

This year, instead of relying on local merchants to supply items for the Silent Auction, we are asking members to contribute. What could a member offer? One can offer goods or services. How about a themed basket? It could be in a basket or some other type of appropriate container. Get creative! What kind of basket or service would **you** like to receive?

To volunteer, please contact Nancy Lamb at 508-429-2696 or nancybowenlamb@gmail.com

To donate an item for the silent auction please contact Beate Hait

at 508-429-3564 or beateh1@aol.com Beate requests that Silent Auction items be dropped off at her house on 80 Wingate Rd. two weeks before the Fair if possible. That date is September 8th.

There are many ways to help. We need you to make our Fair a success! It's fun – and a great way to welcome in Fall.

—Pam Kyrka and Pat Pereira



Two Winter Socials

On Sunday, December 8th from 2-4 pm there will be a Christmas Open House at the Holliston Historical Society with decorations by the Holliston Garden Club.

On Saturday, January 18, 2020 we will have our annual Pot Luck Dinner. The social hour starts at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:45 pm.

Watch for your invitation to these events.



Upcoming Programs

Lizzie Borden—The Mystery Continues

Speaker: Christopher Daley

Monday September 23, 2019, 7:30 pm at the HHS

The Holliston Public Library and the Holliston Historical Society are pleased to host speaker Christopher Daley to help answer the questions that still remain about the double murder in Fall River. The program will be held at the Historical Society on Monday, September 23rd at 7:30 pm. This program is paid for by the Friends of the Holliston Public Library. There will be a social following the presentation.

Apples—A Local History

Sunday October 6, 2019, 2:00 pm in Sherborn

The Historical Societies from Holliston and Sherborn will join once again. This year's topic will be the apple industry in our towns. Joanne Hulbert of Holliston will be presenting along with George Fiske and Betsy Johnson of Sherborn. The meeting will be held at the Sherborn "old town hall" —the big brown building between the Sherborn Library and the First Parish Church on Sunday October 6 at 2:00 pm.

We occasionally send emails to the HHS membership. If you have not received an e-mail lately, please check your spam folder. Then tell your e-mail software that we are not spam so that you don't miss any news.

UPCOMING EVENT

22nd Annual Oktoberfest

Friday, October 18, 7:00 pm

Celebrate Oktoberfest on Friday, October 18 at 7 pm with fellow Historical Society members as well as your neighbors and friends. Our 1815 barn is the perfect venue for this festive occasion.

Back by popular demand is the featured entertainment: the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band, which has performed all over the East Coast and Canada and will get you laughing, singing and dancing a polka before the evening is done. You could also be given an opportunity to play the Stumpf Fiddle!

In addition to large, soft pretzels and your choice of beverage (wine, craft beers, soda or water) we serve a meal of premium knockwurst, rye bread, German potato salad and red cabbage. After the meal enjoy coffee, tea and homemade apple crisp with whipped cream for dessert. Vegetarians can request Käsespätzle in place of the knockwurst by notifying Bea Hait at 508-429-3564 or beateh1@aol.com no later than October 11.

Members of the Society volunteer with the setup, cooking, serving, decorations and clean up. If you'd like to join the volunteer fun, please contact Bill Hatch at bhhatch17@gmail.com or 508-429-5362.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased through PayPal at hollistonhistoricalsociety.org and at select merchants in town. Space is limited so purchase your tickets early to ensure your spot at a table for this delectable German meal, lively musical entertainment and Gemütlichkeit. Prosit!

—Beate Hait

Upcoming Program

Praying Town-A Film by Zadi Zokou

November 10, 2019 – Sunday, 2:00 pm

At the Holliston Historical Society

The Holliston Historical Society is pleased to co-sponsor with Holliston Public Library a showing of “**Praying Town**”, a documentary about the history of our neighboring town, Natick, by local film maker Zadi Zokou. The film maker will be at the showing and he has an interesting story to tell as well. The two films are about 90 minutes long, one at about an hour the other just shy of 30 minutes. With a break in between, when the film maker will tell his story, this should be a very interesting presentation.

Part One: John Eliot and the Praying Indians

A Puritan from England, John Eliot emigrated to America in 1631. Settling in Roxbury, he preached to the Indians of southern New England and formed a number of “praying towns” for these new Christians, Natick being the first. But King Philip’s War would shatter the future of these communities.

Part Two: Black Slaves, the Industrial Revolution and Henry Wilson

African slaves were first brought to Massachusetts in 1638, and intermarried with Native Americans, creating another demographic in southern New England. African Americans from Natick fought in both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Natick was also home to prominent abolitionists—Harriet Beecher Stow, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, spent time here with her husband’s family; and Henry Wilson, “the Natick Cobbler,” later became Vice President of the United States.

In Memory of Founders—

Boulder and Tablet Unveiled. (Framingham News)

While looking for something in the Historical Society minutes from 1915, I stumbled upon a major event in the history of our Historical Society. For several months leading up to June 17, 1915, plans were underway for a large celebration in Sherborn culminating in this invitation:

The Historical Societies of Sherborn, Holliston
and Medway
invite you to be present at the
Old South Burying Ground, Sherborn
at the
Unveiling and Dedication of a Boulder and Tablet
in commemoration of the first settlers
of the above towns
on Thursday, June 17, 1915 at 2 P.M.

Train from Framingham, 12:05
Train from Medfield, 1:19
Transportation will be provided from the
Sherborn station on arrival of these trains.

Excerpts from the article I found in The Framingham News from June 18, 1915 described the day:

“The unveiling of the Founder’s Boulder and Tablet at the Old South Burying Ground yesterday afternoon was an event of rare interest and significance to Sherborn, Medway and Holliston. A large tent had been placed just in front of the boulder and in it were seats for 200 people. Every seat was occupied For two hours the volunteer autoists were busily engaged. John Mason Batchelder, president of the Holliston Historical society read a paper of much historical interest describing the early settlement and history of the Boggistowe Farms. The boulder is huge and rugged and the inscription on the bronze tablet is as follows:

The Most Ancient Burying Ground, On the West bank of the Charles River
Established by the Settlers of the Boggastowe Farms before 1660.
Here rest from their labors the Founders of Sherborn, Holliston and Medway.
Erected by the Historical Societies of the three towns, 1915.”

I had to see the boulder and thought some of you might want to see it too. I searched Old South Burying Ground online and found directions,

but thought I had better try them out before I put them in this article. After wandering around South Main St and no cemetery, I needed better directions. Thankfully, I know an HHS member from Sherborn who knows all about Sherborn Cemeteries. Betsy Johnson not only gave me better directions but also offered to go with me to the cemetery that afternoon. There are many fewer stones in this cemetery than we have in our Holliston Cemeteries. It is much older so many stones are no longer visible. Per information in the Sherborn town website: "it is the oldest burying ground west of the Charles River where Sherborn's first settlers are buried. We have been told early graves were not marked so the Native People would not know how many settlers were here." Before the 1915 celebration, Sherborn Historical Society undertook its restoration.

There is a new stone for Hopestill Leland, the ancestor of Jerry Adams. Per findagrave.com Hopestill was the first person buried here in 1655. There are Bullard stones so there is a good chance that members who are descended from Bullards have ancestors here too. There are very few Morse stones since Joseph Morse and his wives Mehetabel Wood Morse (D 1681), Hanna Babcock Morse (D 1711), Hanna Dyer Morse (D 1727) were moved from Old South to Central Cemetery in Holliston to the Morse lot by members of the Morse family.

For more information on the Old South visit:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2275431/old-south-cemetery> and

www.sherbornma.org/cemetery-commission Or go in person: Take Rt. 27 from Sherborn Center towards Medfield. After you pass Rt. 115, there are a couple of houses before you turn into a private dirt driveway on your left at 255 South Main St. (not 225 as indicated on the websites). You will see the cemetery on the left of the driveway. There is room to park by the cemetery.

The town website describes the cemetery: "South Cemetery sits on a beautiful bluff overlooking the Charles River." I could not see the Charles River from the cemetery but you may see it in the winter when the leaves are gone since there are no horses or cattle grazing here anymore to keep the trees down.

--Carol Kosicki

Annual Meeting 2019 Report

The Historical Society's Annual Meeting was held on May 19, following a social hour and delicious potluck dinner. External VP Beate Hait was the MC since the Board was without a president for the year. Committee members gave their reports. Everyone has been working hard on behalf of the organization. The gardens are thoughtfully maintained, the collections committee is working to preserve and show the items in their care, the library is open to researchers and reaches people far from Holliston over the internet. Bill Hodge and Stewart Wohlrab, our property managers, have continued to work hard to attract renters; rentals account for most of our income. In addition to the regular committees, the kitchen committee has been working for over a year as the scope grew from a freshening of the space to a full-scale remodel. The kitchen is finally close to completion after much consultation with the Building Inspector and the Board of Health over the past few months. David Grosjean let us know that the Endowment Fund balance had reached \$134,959.75 that week. At the board meeting on May 13th, Treasurer Don Bates said that we still need to pay for much of the kitchen, but the balance in the checking account was \$18,582.70 and the balance in the saving account was \$30,900.00.

Judy Grosjean read the slate of candidates for election to the board of directors. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was voted in. Please see the list of current board members on page two of this newsletter.

Finally, award winners were announced. Internal VP Paul Saulnier recognized Don Bates with the Member of the Year award "for extraordinary service during the past year." The Kitchen Committee was given a special award for their efforts.

A special thank you to Sheila Adams and her committee for organizing and hosting this opportunity for all members to come together and participate in our Society.

—*mec*

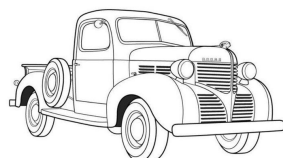
Car Show Update

For the second time in 17 years, our Annual Father's Day Car Show and Breakfast was cancelled due to the forecasted 70% chance of rain. Although the rain stopped overnight and didn't start again until after 10:00 AM most of the show cars would not have come as these cars are as shiny underneath as they are on top.

We are grateful to many of our sponsors who instructed us to keep their sponsorship fees. Some even bought back their trophies to display in their offices and waiting rooms to show their support for the Historical Society and its mission.

Can't wait 'til next year.

—Paul Saulnier



Have an idea for a fundraiser?

Two of our popular fundraisers—the February Train Show and A Taste of Holliston in April—have run their course, leaving an opening for a late winter/early spring fundraiser to take their place. If you have an idea for a fun event, please let us know.

**Holliston Historical Society
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