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 Holliston Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**Fall 2021**



The fall newsletter has not ever featured a view of a Car Show on the front cover before, but we have not had much normalcy lately! The HHS is thrilled that people are back on our grounds for rentals and events!

**Dates to Remember.....**

**September 17—Pie Night (p. 5)**

**September 19—40th Harvest Fair (p. 4)**

**October 3—Car Show and Pancake Breakfast (p. 6)**

**November TBD—Women’s Suffrage Program (p. 7)**

**January TBD—Potluck Dinner**

**February 20—Negro Leagues Baseball Talk**

Holliston Historical Society *NEWSLETTER*

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Mary Curran, Editor

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## **A Note from Our President**

Dear Fellow-members,

As you may have noticed, the Society is having a very busy rental season this year and we expect this will continue until at least the end of October. We are very grateful to our Property and Rental Manager, Victoria, for managing the increased work so beautifully.

Our 200-year-old buildings continue to require much care. We recently discovered that the back roof, soffits, and fascias of the Asa Whiting House and ell were leaking into the House and need replacement. Temporary repairs are in place and the permanent repair work will begin at the end of August. The floors of the porches also need major restoration, along with the west chimney, which needs re-pointing. Since these are very large unexpected Capital expenses, we are looking to apply for grants to cover as much of the cost as possible.

If you are interested in helping us apply for grants, please contact me at: [nancybowenlamb@gmail.com](mailto:nancybowenlamb@gmail.com).

On a brighter note, we are all looking forward to the Harvest Fair on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>! (Rain Date September 26<sup>th</sup>.) As you will see from the newsletter, we would love to have you join in the fun by attending and/or volunteering for a couple of hours. Please note the addition of the Society's Treasure Shop, all proceeds from which will support the Society. The postponed Father's Day Car Show will take place on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> with great cars and a wonderful breakfast! We hope to see you for both of these fund-raising events.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lamb  
President

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

A reminder – Don't miss the 40<sup>th</sup> Holliston Historical Society Fair.

Date: September 19, 2021 (Rain date – September 26, 2021)

Time: 10 AM to 4PM (Silent Auction closes at 3PM)

Where: The Holliston Historical Society, 547 Washington Street (RT 16), Holliston, MA.

Many vendors will be selling their wares, including candies and fudge, bakery items, art works, antiques, collectibles, clothing, totes, seasonal items, jewelry, and leather goods.

Pet the incredibly soft alpacas from the Harvard Alpaca Ranch and purchase some of the softest fabrics you'll ever touch!

Visit our barn to purchase coffee, water, and lunch, and goodies from our bake sale table.

Don't forget our homemade apple pies, too! A perennial favorite!

Welcome in Fall the best way possible—visit the Holliston Historical Society Harvest Fair!

—*Pam Kyrka*

### Volunteers Still Needed To Help With the Fair

The Fair is our biggest fundraiser each year and we need lots of help to pull it off. Please contact Bill Hatch at 508-429-5362 or respond "Yes!" when he calls you or sends an e-mail and you may request your favorite spot!



### Treasure Shop at the Harvest Fair

A new feature at the Harvest Fair this year will be our Treasure Shop. Items of value such as antiques, collectibles, or objects in very good condition are needed. If you have items that you might like to donate, please contact or send a photo to:

Sheila Adams at [adamssjt1@aol.com](mailto:adamssjt1@aol.com) or

Melissa Ford at [melissaford905@gmail.com](mailto:melissaford905@gmail.com)

After the fair, we will continue to offer items in a virtual Treasure Shop on our website.



### **Speaking of Apple Pies...**

Pie Night will be held on Friday, September 17th. We will start at 5:00 PM and go until we have turned 10 bushels of apples into 100 or so pies. All are welcome, whether you are a baker or not! Bring your rolling pin if you have one, an apron, and your special pie making tools, and join us in the barn. It is a fun time to meet other members while helping to populate the bake table with the pies we will sell at the Fair. Snacks and soft drinks are available throughout the evening and once the pies are made, we celebrate with a pizza party. No need to RSVP, just come!

I plan to be at the barn for set-up at 3:00 PM if anyone would like to join me. We would also welcome help on Saturday to bake the pies, clean the trays, move the cooled pies into boxes, and the like from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 PM. For more information, call Mary at 429-5929 or e-mail [mecksf@gmail.com](mailto:mecksf@gmail.com).

For those of you who would rather bake cakes or cookies, we will be collecting baked goods for the bake table. They can be dropped off on Saturday or Sunday at the barn. Thank you in advance!

**17<sup>th</sup> FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST CRUISE**  
*(Postponed thanks to Covid-19)*  
**OCTOBER 3, 2021**

*Hosted by*  
*the Holliston Historical Society*  
*547 Washington St (rt. 16), Holliston, Mass.*

*8AM to 10 AM*

***Free to all cars and motorcycles of interest. Trophies***  
***Full breakfast & snacks available. Proceeds benefit the***  
***Holliston Historical Society***

*Sponsored & trophies awarded by:*

Corcoran & Havlin Insurance Group/Hagerty Insurance  
Quality Auto Body, Keystone Automotive  
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Roses Automotive, Medfield on the Charles  
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*For a complete listing of car shows, go to:*  
**<http://www.carshownationals.com/>**

## Upcoming Program

### Woman's Suffrage Program

November Date TBD

The Woman's Suffrage Program is back in the plan for November. We are asking the original "cast" to again assume their places in the program, and we are also looking for one, stalwart MAN who will join in. He must be ready to defend the anti-suffrage opinions with great strength - and humor. No acting experience necessary. Script will be provided. If you are brave, please let Joanne Hulbert know, and we will proceed with the rehearsal - no memorization need be required!

—*Joanne Hulbert*

[jhulbert49@gmail.com](mailto:jhulbert49@gmail.com)





## What did you do for Labor Day?

In the early days of the Holliston Historical Society, an annual outing was held each Labor Day for members and guests from near and far including many guests from other historical societies. The first three outings included Pilgrimages planned for Jasper's Rock (1911-1913), unfortunately it rained for the 1912 outing and it was held in Town Hall.

Excerpt from the Framingham News 1911:

### Pilgrimage To Jasper's Hill

Holliston, Sept 5-- The Holliston Historical society made its first pilgrimage to Jasper's rock on the afternoon of Labor day, a delightful autumn day when the rocks being heated to just the proper degree to afford comfort to the visitors grouped thereon.

Yesterday's pilgrimage followed by 250 years a significant event in the town's early history when settlers signaled by bonfire on Jasper hill and were answered with fires from the hills in Medfield in token that all was well with their kinsmen. Last evening the closing event of the society's pilgrimage to this same Jasper hill was a huge signal fire.  
.....

Nearly 150 people responded to the invitation of the society for this outing.

Excerpt from the Framingham News 1913:

### Jasper Hill Pilgrimage

Holliston, Sept 3 -- The third annual pilgrimage of the Holliston Historical Society was held Monday..... There were 200 members and guests present..... Through the courtesy of Colonel G. A. Flagg, easy access to the scene was gained through the spacious grounds on Washington street, the gates and fields having been left open so that both teams and foot passengers found the trip easy and pleasant.

**NOTE:** In 2021, find Jasper's Rock by walking up Fairlane Way (no teams, please!), around the gate, and continuing on the road towards the Water Tower. At the first curve in the road, look for the large, flat boulder in the woods off to the right; it has a plaque placed by Rick and Joanne Brown's daughter Eliza. Alternately, you can come up through the woods (no path) from the Asa Whiting House, the former property of Col. Flagg, grandson of Asa Whiting, and now the home of the Holliston Historical Society.

By **1914**, Jasper's Hill may have become too steep because the outing was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cutler on Highland Street above Lake Winthrop. Invitations were sent out and over 200 attended. The electric car referenced below was not a Tesla but the trolley. The invitation:

*The Holliston Historical Society will hold its Annual Outing on Labor Day, Monday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at "Wennakeening" the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Cutler. A conveyance will meet the Electric Cars at Highland Street beginning with the car leaving So. Framingham at 1.45 P.M. – Basket Lunch*  
FRANK HAVILAND,  
Secretary

The **1915** outing was held at Brooksmont Farm on Concord Street with a Victrola concert while the basket lunch was enjoyed. Activities included a guided walk through the historic Jennings Road, games for children and young people on the lawn, and later, a huge bonfire.

The invitation:

*The Holliston Historical Society will hold its  
Annual Outing on Labor Day,  
Monday, Sept 6th, at "Brooksmont"  
the residence of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. W. Brooks  
and Miss Emma Brooks  
at 2.30 P.M. Basket Lunch  
FRANK HAVILAND, Sec'y*

The sixth and last Labor Day outing was held in 1916 at the Old Boggastow Fort in Millis with 100 in attendance and the trip to and from the fort was made in automobiles. The invitation:

**THE HOLLISTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
will hold its Annual Outing on  
**LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER FOURTH**  
A trip to the Old Boggastow Fort, on the Rottman Farm in  
Millis, is the present plan.

The Society will meet on the Congregational Church Green,  
at one-thirty P.M. and transportation will be provided for  
those notifying the Secretary in advance.

Basket lunch and coffee as usual.  
Frank Haviland  
Secretary

In subsequent years, the Society's minutes refer to annual outdoor meetings with invited guests but no longer the annual Labor Day outing.

—Carol Kosicki

## Work around the property

### Garden

Despite the wet weather we have been experiencing this summer, our gardens have been a fitting setting for weddings and other rentals. Kudos to Victoria for managing the garden care in addition to her other duties. This fall we will schedule a work day to help put the gardens to bed for the winter. We will email information regarding the days and times. All are welcome to help with garden work.

### The Asa Whiting House

Work is planned for September to replace the roofing on the west side of the house and the roofing on the ell. Leaks have caused some deterioration of the fascias and soffits in these areas. Repairs will prevent further damage.

Painting of the Asa Whiting House will also take place in the fall thanks to the matching grant from the 1776 Foundation.

Thank you to Paul Saulnier and Victoria for repairing the flooring of both porches.

—Sheila Adams



Suppose the year was around 1926 and you needed a load of stone delivered to the entrance of your barn. It probably would have arrived in something like this 1926 Ford TT C cap dump truck.

See video: <https://youtu.be/lswNn5mPgcs>

Today the truck is owned by Ted Valpey, TSV Construction of Holliston. When asked, Ted was only too happy to donate the stone to the Historical Society and deliver it in the style appropriate to the historic site. No power tail-gates or lifts here. Just unlock the back gate and turn the crank until the stone slides out, just like the ones kids still play with in the sand box.

—Paul Saulnier



There is an exciting new TV trivia game show that will be beginning soon on HCAT-TV called What Do You Know? hosted by Brian Winston and Melissa Klein. We are looking for contestants to compete by having two 2 person teams play each other. Residents are invited to play and we would also like local organizations to participate. Topics include movies, TV, sports, games, geography, history, music, and people. Your group is welcome to compete against another town group. Prizes will be awarded.

Eligibility - Any member of the Society, employees, or associates are welcome to play. Please contact Bea Hait at 508-429-3564 or beateh1@aol.com if you would like to join the HHS trivia team.

—John Cronin

## **“TRAVELS WITH GEORGE”**

Prominent Massachusetts author, Nathaniel Philbrick visited Holliston in 2019 during his research into George Washington’s New England tour of 1789. Although Holliston was not directly mentioned in George’s diary of that trip, we do know from local history that indeed, George traveled through Holliston while journeying to New York City. He was taking the scenic route, as it were, and he apparently spent quite an interesting time in Hol-

liston that he did not mention - but luckily for us, Philbrick has set the record - or the legends - straight, and we expect Holliston and the memories of Washington's visit will restore Holliston's rightful place in presidential history. Mr. Philbrick had quite a bit of fun while here, as, apparently so did George in 1789!

"Travels With George" by Nathaniel Philbrick will be available - from all the usual sources - on September 14, 2021. Order up your copy now, travel with George, and experience a slice of American - and Holliston - history.

—*Joanne Hulbert*

Joanne added that "Nathaniel Philbrick came to Holliston - to the Historical Society too - in February 2019 in order to find out if Holliston had anything in the town's history about Washington's travel through here. We did. I do believe he left quite happy with what he learned, and I hear that the photo on the back cover is of Philbrick on the balancing rock. Luckily he got to give it a push - like George did - before the rock toppled over. We absolve him of any fault in the matter!"

Inspired in part by Mr. Philbrick's book, the Sherborn and Natick Historical Societies and the Sherborn Library have asked if we would like to join them in presenting a program on George Washington's inaugural tour, which included stops in Sherborn, Natick, and Holliston. They were thinking that this could be a program we put on with historical societies doing some very local history work to tell the story of where Washington stopped and stayed locally. We will let you know when we hear more about this idea.

—*mec*

**Holliston Historical Society  
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