
 Holliston Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021



Dates to Remember.....

June 20—Fathers Day Beer Garden (p. 4)

August 8—Concert in the Garden (p. 4)

September TBA—Farm to Table Dinner (p. 4)

September 17—Pie Night (p. 5)

September 19—40th Harvest Fair (p. 5)

October 3—Car Show and Pancake Breakfast (p. 7)

Holliston Historical Society *NEWSLETTER*

Summer 2021 • Volume 28, Number 1

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Telephone: (508) 429-5795

<http://www.Hollistonhistoricalsociety.org>

Mary Curran, Editor

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Officers

President	Nancy Lamb
Immediate Past President	Paul Saulnier
External Vice President	Beate Hait
Internal Vice President	Sheila Adams
Secretary	Anne Tobin
Treasurer	Don Bates
<u>Directors-at-Large</u>	Pam Kyrka, Melissa Ford, Pat Pereira, Jane Gilfoy

Permanent/Standing Committee Chairs

Finance	These committee positions will be voted on by the board at the July 12 meeting.
Nominations	
Education & Programs	The Officers and Directors (above) as well as the Endowment and Web Services Chairmen (below) were elected at the Annual Meeting on May 27th.
Collections	
Property Management	
Library & Archives	
Membership	
Publicity and Publications	

Endowment Fund Chairman David Grosjean

Web Services Chairman Mary Curran

Annual Committee Chairs

Gardens and Landscape	Sheila Adams
Car Show	Paul Saulnier
Harvest Fair	Bea Hait
Decorations	Joanna Hilliard



A Note from Our President

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Annual Meeting in May—our first in-person get-together in a year and a half!

What a time it's been these last fifteen months! But we are grateful to say that Holliston Historical Society is going forward with progress and promise. Much appreciation goes to the individuals and committees who have continued the work of the Society during this time—sometimes masked in person and often on Zoom.

As you probably know from our earlier communications, we lost a great deal of our rental income in 2020 but were grateful to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Middlesex Charitable Foundation and an additional \$20,000 thanks to a \$10,000 matching grant. These, as well as other donations during this challenging time, helped us head into 2021 on a good financial footing.

This past year we said good-bye to Bill Hodge and Stewart Wohlrab who retired after 16 wonderful, progressive years as our Property and Rental Managers. We're so glad to have them continuing as active members. In December, Victoria Shotton took up this vital position with enthusiasm and expertise. We are so pleased to have her on the team.

We'd like to extend special thanks to Judy Grosjean and Carol Kosicki who have both served so ably on the Board of Directors for a number of years and are now leaving the Board. We're so grateful that they will both continue with Society activities close to their hearts. On July 1, we're pleased to be welcoming two new Board members: Jane Gilfoy and Sheila Adams.

And finally, we are so grateful to you, our members, for supporting and joining in Society activities. We look forward to seeing you often this year!

Warmly,

Nancy Lamb

UPCOMING EVENTS

SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS

In addition to the wonderful goings-on that happen each year at the Holliston Historical Society, this season we are adding a few more.

On Father's Day the ZELUS Brewery of Medfield will be holding a Beer Garden from 12pm to 8pm. Come join us for fun, music, food and, of course, a beer or two. The HHS will receive a percentage of the profits. We look forward to seeing you all on June 20th!

On August 8th, it will be our pleasure to introduce a Broadway pianist who will give a live concert in the wedding garden. More information and tickets for this event will be available at a later date.

In September, there will be a bountiful Farm to Table dinner in our barn. This will surely be a night to remember. More information to follow in the next month or so along with where to obtain tickets.

We look forward to seeing you all. Stay healthy and safe.

40th Harvest Fair Sunday, September 19, 2021

With the cancellation of the Harvest Fair last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the “annual” has fallen from the title of this event, and 2021 will be the 40th time this event has been held on the grounds of the Holliston Historical Society. With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, planning is proceeding full steam ahead for this year. (We will, of course, comply with any COVID-19 restrictions that might be in place in September.)

The date is Sunday, Sept. 19 (rain date Sept. 26) from 10:00 to 4:00. Crafts, antiques, collectibles, music by Always in Season, food, baked goods—including our much loved and anticipated apple pies—silent auction and open hours at the Asa Whiting House will be offered.

You are invited to attend—and volunteer—at this, our most important fundraiser of the year for a shift of two hours (or more!) in any capacity, such as the popcorn machine, beverages, food service line, bake table, silent auction, vendor assistance, and more. If you can only do an early shift, starting at 6:30 a.m. you could help guide vendors to their spots. If you can only do a late shift, we need help with clean up starting at 4:00 p.m. To volunteer, please contact Bill Hatch at 508-429-5362.

How about coming to Pie Night on Friday, Sept. 17 starting around 5:00 p.m. to help peel the apples, roll pie crust and fill the pies? After the pies are assembled, we can sit and enjoy pizza and beverages. On Saturday we will need help to bake the pies. Please contact Mary Curran at 508-429-5929 if you would like to help on Saturday in that capacity.

Harvest Fair, continued

We are also looking for someone to assume the coordination of Pie Night starting next year. Hands-on training available now.

The Silent Auction table is a staple of this fundraiser, and we need someone to coordinate this important function. Please contact Bea Hait (contact info below). Our next planning meeting is June 21, and we need someone in place by that date.

If you cannot volunteer for Pie Night or the Harvest Fair, how about contributing a baked good for the Society's Bake Table? You may drop off your baked item at the barn on Saturday morning or the morning of the Fair.

Questions? Contact Harvest Fair Coordinator Bea Hait at beateh1@aol.com or 508-429-3564.

—*Beate Hait*



A view from the street of a past Harvest Fair and our gardens.

Father's Day Car Show Moves to the Fall

The Holliston Historical Society Father's Day Car Show is scheduled this year on October 3, 2021. Who knew that the lockdown would be over on May 30th?

Due to the lockdown, the Historical Society had to cancel almost all of our scheduled events since March of 2020, creating a financial challenge that caused postponement of needed maintenance and repairs. The car show is one of the major fund-raising events thanks to the sponsors, the drivers and the public that comes every year to admire the vehicles and enjoy an old fashioned breakfast in the barn.

This show is different from most car shows in many ways. First, it is over in about two hours, 8 to 10AM, to allow fathers to attend the show and get back home in time to celebrate Father's Day. Second, there are no classes to judge and no rules. The trophies are awarded by the sponsors for any reason and the winners are asked to talk about their ride. There is even a "Heart & Soul" trophy given to the person who worked hard to build what he drove to the show. Last, but not least, there is no entry fee. We just ask that everyone come hungry and buy breakfast in the barn. So, bring your ride, bring your friends, and have a hearty breakfast while you view the cars and grounds at the Asa Whiting House, 547 Washington Street.

This year the sponsor list has grown to 16 companies and individuals: Corcoran & Havlin / Hagerty Insurance Co, Quality Auto Body, Keystone Automotive, Authentic Auto Body, Hometown Auto Body, Roadmaster Sales & Service, Vintage Motorsports, Kidde-Fenwal, The Jid Kamitian Family, Roses Automotive (Heart & Soul Award) and Medfield on the Charles Car Show. New this year are Mark Dellicker Construction, Green Plumbing and Heating, Chipman Electric, BDR Automotive and AH Car Storage. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

—Paul Saulnier

18th Century Days

Every year since 1972 the Holliston Historical Society has hosted Holliston's third graders for the 18th Century Days field trip. This field trip, a collaboration between the Society and Holliston PTO and parent volunteers, is a great Holliston tradition. Providing hands-on learning experiences in a historical setting, it is a treasured memory for many Holliston students (and their parents!). In May 2020 the field trip was cancelled for the first time ever, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The quickly evolving situation in early 2021 made the planning of a 5-day event involving 80 parent volunteers in a non-school setting again impossible, but the Education Committee at the Historical Society did not want to let another year go by without some sort of 18th Century Day Experience for third graders. The Education Committee at the Society, after consulting with our Miller School liaison, Joe Doohar, decided to put together a packet that would try to capture some of the highlights of the field trip, and provide some materials for hands-on activities that students could do in-school or remotely.

June 11 the Holliston Historical Society delivered over 200 packets to the Miller School. The envelope contained a handout of information and instructions for activities so students can get a sense of 18th Century life in Holliston. It included a cardboard loom and yarn, herbal tea bags, and the materials to make an 18th Century Buzz Saw (fidget toy). We also provided links to the teachers for instructional videos, produced by Terri Chamberlain, to supplement the packet.

We hope that the students have fun with the packet and are proud that we were able to put together a great remote experience for the third graders. And a big thank you to Sheila Adams

and James Grosjean for their help putting together the packets. We are REALLY looking forward to hosting the 18th Century Day field trip in person in 2022! Seeing the students having fun at the Society will be a great way to celebrate a return to normal and the 50th year of 18th Century Days!

--*Judy Grosjean*



Here is the contents of the packet made for each third grade student.

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, collectables, or objects in very good condition are needed. If you have items that you might like to donate, please contact:

Sheila Adams at adamssjt1@aol.com or

Melissa Ford at melissaford905@gmail.com

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

So Gallantly Streaming

If you attended Memorial Day services and watched the flag as it was raised at noon at Town Hall, did you know how the flag staff came to be? It was the Woman's Relief Corps (W.R.C.) who saw a need and in short order a 48-star flag was raised for Decoration Day 1915.

Excerpts From the **Framingham Evening News** for the year 1915 found in our Society library:

**Holliston W.R.C.
Will Have Flag
On Town Hall**

Holliston May 8 – At a recent meeting of the W.R.C. the subject of procuring a flag for use on the town hall was presented. A Committee was organized with Mrs. E. J. Corbert as chairman to devise ways and means. It was a shock to a great many people when they realized that for years ... the town hall has had no flag. It is the desire of the ladies that the flag should be unfurled on Decoration Day .

**Big Flagstaff
For Holliston
Is Set in Place**

Holliston May 26— The Walworth Mfg. Co. of Boston assisted by local people, erected the 60-foot steel flag staff yesterday in front of Town hall. The staff weighs 1300 pounds and the process of setting it in the six-foot hole was watched with interest by a large crowd.

**Unfurling of
Holliston Flag
Impressive Event**

Holliston, June 1 - Memorial Day was observed in town yesterday by the G.A.R., W.R.C. and S. of V.

decorating the graves and dinner at noon)...

At 3 p.m. the organizations and the band gathered on the lawn in front of Town hall, where the largest number of people ever seen in Holliston had congregated, to listen to the program in connection with the presentation to the town by the W.R.C. of a 60-foot flag staff and a beautiful 15X24 foot flag. The flag was tied in a small bundle and as it neared the top of the staff, it unfurled, sending a shower of small flags, which were eagerly caught by the audience and kept as souvenirs.

...(Activities included

Glossary for the current audience:

G.A.R – Grand Army of the Republic: organization of Civil War Union veterans

W.R.C. – Woman’s Relief Corps: the women’s auxiliary to the G.A.R.

S. of V. – Sons of Veterans: organization for sons of GAR members

--Carol Kosicki



Massachusetts Civil War Monuments Project

Before a flag was added to the front of the town hall, the first monument added to the space was the Soldiers' Monument. It lists the names of the Holliston servicemen who died during the Civil War and the names of the battles. Patrick Browne, coordinator of the Massachusetts Civil War Monuments Project, has included Holliston’s monument on their website and shared the information with the Historical Society. To read more, please visit:

<https://macivilwarmonuments.com/2021/04/06/holliston/>

—Carol Kosicki

News from the Gardens

While we were in our Covid-19 quarantine, our gardens and lawn were growing. The lawn has been looking good under the care of ZHS landscaping. The flower beds have been kept in shape by Garden Committee members and Property Managers, Bill Hodge and Stewart Wolhrab and now, Victoria Shotten, our new property manager. Special thanks go to Rick Kattman who not only worked on hot summer days to keep our flower beds in good shape but also pruned our shrubs. Victoria brings with her an extensive knowledge of plants and a willingness to weed and groom our flower beds. Joanna Hilliard kept our planters stocked with seasonal plants and flowers.

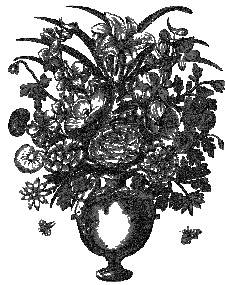
Rolf Briggs, of Tree Specialists, recently identified for us the different trees on our property and suggested how we might best care for them. Our priority is to preserve our trees, with special focus on the Weeping Beech at the end of the driveway.

The Holliston Garden Club is replanting our Herb Garden in front of the Shoe Shop next to where it used to be. It will be an attractive design that will allow for more space for use in our 18th Century Days school program.

Weddings are taking place again at the Society thanks to the relaxing of Covid restrictions. Victoria has weeded the flower beds and has tackled the hydrangea garden beside the garage. She painted the fences, arches, and the garden side of the garage. With help from committee members, she spread mulch on the flower beds. We are grateful for her hard work and dedication to making everything look so good.

The attractiveness of our gardens and lawn is vital to our continuing to be welcoming to renters. The Garden Committee will be meeting soon to review plans for the gardens. Volunteers to help with garden tasks will be needed. The Garden Committee welcomes all who would like to lend a hand in the garden.

—*Sheila Adams*



Annual Meeting 2021

The last-minute lifting of some of the COVID-19 restrictions added to the festive nature of our first in-person gathering since February 2020. Members arrived at the barn eager to see each other in person after the long break. Many still wore masks, but we saw lots of smiles too! The usual potluck dinner was replaced by an invitation to bring a picnic and many people enjoyed eating in the garden or on the porch. The house was open so that members could admire the new collections and décor in the great room and the renovated kitchen. The kitchen in the barn had had a make-over during the closure and all the changes were well-received.

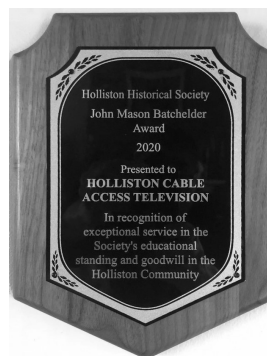
The meeting commenced with a welcome from President, Nancy Lamb. Officers and committee chairpersons gave their reports; much of that information can be found in articles in this publication. Of special note is that our treasurer, Don Bates, is feeling optimistic that we have made it through the worst of our financial worries. People are feeling more comfortable about having gath-

erings, so our rental business has picked up, and the easing of restrictions makes us hopeful that we can host fundraisers such as the Harvest Fair and Car Show in the fall.

Voting was next on the agenda. The By-Law Study Committee presented a revised mission statement and it was voted in the affirmative. Next, hearing no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers (see page 2) was voted in unanimously.

Finally, Nancy called on Paul Saulnier to present the John Mason Batchelder award for excellence in education. Paul presented the award to Holliston Cable Access Television for all the work they have done to educate the Holliston community over the years, but especially during this year when they helped keep people connected with library programs, church services, and information. Bruce Gilfoy, the station manager, accepted the award on behalf of HCATTV. Nancy then had the pleasure of surprising Patty Pereira with the Member of the Year award. Patty is the chair of the membership committee and stepped up this year to keep members informed about Society issues in her humorous but informative e-mails. She also jumps in wherever she sees a need, including as the vendor coordinator for the Harvest Fair. Thank you to both!

—*mec*



Above, Nancy Lamb congratulates Pat Pereira while Jane and Bruce Gilfoy look on. At right is a photo of HCAT's award.

Membership News

Membership has been busy keeping members informed about upcoming (Zoom) events and about what was happening within the Holliston Historical Society, via emails. Now, as Covid protocols are being eased, we will continue our purpose as stated in the newly adopted, (as of our membership meeting on May 27, 2021) mission statement:

The Mission of the Society is to help enrich the life of our community by promoting historical preservation and by sharing Holliston's past and current history through research, publications, exhibits, programs, events, and education.

During that nasty virus period of the last 16 months, our members and committees have kept very busy. The Asa Whiting house doorway was restored and repaired, and the Barn we are sitting in has been cleaned, organized and adorned with newly acquired and rediscovered collection items. The Barn kitchen has also been updated with a new floor. The meeting room in the house has been upgraded with pictures and maps, matted and framed and a new collection of WWII postcards is on display in the glass cabinet. The collection clothing and other textiles have been moved from the second-floor attic into our climate-controlled storage room in the basement of the house. These are but a few of the projects members and committees have been working on.

Our goal moving forward is to reach out to members who have expressed an interest in being actively involved. Members complete yearly forms and many express an interest in participating in a particular area. (Hospitality, Buildings and Grounds, Financial, Program Planning, etc.) As membership chairperson, I will be focused and pass these names to the appropriate individuals so that these members will be contacted. We need to get more members involved so that Holliston Historical Society remains a vibrant and vital presence in our town and the surrounding area.

Holliston Historical Society truly appreciates our members, who have never wavered in their support for this vital, 110-year-old, organization. At this time, we have 170 members. Renewals and new members are always welcome!

—Patty Pereira

**Holliston Historical Society
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