
 Holliston Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019-20



This tin **bluebird** sign was issued by the Massachusetts Woman **Suffrage** Association to support the 1915 woman **suffrage** referendum. On July 19, 1915, "**Suffrage Blue Bird Day**," about 100,000 **blue birds** were pinned up across the state. There will be a program in March to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. See page 4.

Collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.
https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_508085

Dates to Remember.....

- January 18, 2020—Pot Luck Dinner (p. 3)**
- February 23—USS Constitution's John Benda, USN (p. 4)**
- March 22—Women's Suffrage in Holliston (p. 4)**
- April 19—A Visit with Isabella Stewart Gardner (p. 5)**
- April 27-May 1—18th Century Week for third graders**
- April 30—King Phillip's War with Michael Tougias (p. 5)**
- May 17—Annual Membership Meeting**
- June 21—Car Show and Pancake Breakfast**

Holliston Historical Society *NEWSLETTER*
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Mary Curran, Editor
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❄️ www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org ❄️

❄️ where you can renew your membership ❄️

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Pot Luck Dinner January 18, 2020 5:30 p.m. Social Hour, 6:30 p.m. Dinner.

Start off 2020 with our Annual January Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, January 18th at the Historical Society. Snow date is January 25th. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served about 6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer, main course, salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Tea, coffee, wine, beer, and soft drinks will be provided. Stay tuned for more information on our program.

RSVP to Sheila Adams at adamssjt1@aol.com or 508 429-4876 by January 16th. We hope you will join us for this fun annual event.



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.

Upcoming Programs

Please join us for these upcoming free programs.
Refreshments will be served following each.

Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m. **The Story of the U.S.S. Constitution**

John Benda, USN, a Holliston resident and soon to be the 76th Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Constitution, will discuss the fascinating story of the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Benda will trace the ship's history from her launch in 1797 through today and will share news about her current crew and the vessel's educational mission.

Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. **Women's Suffrage in Holliston**

2020 is the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage and here in Holliston we had several ladies who advocated, sometimes vociferously and sometime quietly, for the right to vote. We have several women to remember and honor. Please join us to celebrate the event.

Joanne Hulbert is looking for a few good women to join her by reading some short passages found in Holliston's history, letters, and events that shaped women's history in our town, a subject that is sometimes lost and now must be found. She is looking for just three or four women and also hopes for one brave man who will volunteer to read the other side of the issue—that "women did not seek nor have interest in voting"—to bravely speak for the opposition. She invites all women to wear white, the color worn by the suffragists, and also to find a blue bird, another symbol of suffrage. There is some time to think about it, and she will be asking for volunteers on or before the Members and Friends Potluck

Dinner in January. Join in the fun and bring your best protest skills to the party.

Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m.
A Visit with Isabella Stewart Gardner: America's
First Patroness of the Arts

Meet famous Boston hostess and art collector Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924) through a dramatic portrayal by character reenactor Jessa Piaia. The drama is set in 1910, seven years after the opening of Fenway Court, the house-museum which Mrs. Gardner designed and built for her extensive art collection, and willed to the City of Boston upon her demise. A recognized leader of Boston's emerging salon scene, Mrs. Gardner, with characteristic verve and candor, relates episodes about her luminous circle of family and friends, relives journeys to exotic lands, and shares other potentially scandalous encounters. The portrayal runs approximately 50 minutes in length, with an informal Q&A to follow.

Piaia uses drama to reveal the accomplishments, struggles, and contributions of women to American history. Clad in period attire, she is acclaimed for "recreating history in the fullest sense," and for using "solid research and compelling writing" in her artistry.

Thursday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.
Michael Tougias presents *King Philip's War*

Note: this program will be held in Sherborn in the Community Room, Sherborn Library at the Sherborn Community Center, 3 Sanger St., from 6:30-7:45 pm.

2020 also marks the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing. In commemoration of this historic event, *New York Times* best-

selling author Michael Tougias will give a slide presentation on the war between the Colonists and Native Americans in 1675-76. The first part of the presentation will discuss the Indian way of life, Colonial settlements, and the events leading up to the war. The second part covers the battles and the strategy during this cataclysmic war, which on a per capita basis was the bloodiest conflict in our Nation's history. Book signing and questions follow.

Tougias is the author and co-author of 29 non-fiction books including *The Finest Hours: The True Story of the Coast Guard's Most Daring Rescue* (made into a movie), *Rescue of the Bounty*, *Until I Have No Country* (A novel of King Philip's War), and co-author with Eric Schultz of *King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of American's Forgotten Conflict*.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Sherborn Library, the Sherborn Historical Society, and the Holliston Historical Society. This program will be held in Sherborn in the Community Room, Sherborn Library at the Sherborn Community Center, 3 Sanger St., from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

We occasionally send emails to the HHS membership to let you know about upcoming programs. If you have not received an e-mail from us 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.

Annual Harvest Fair

by Beate Hait, Harvest Fair Coordinator

Do you know that this year the Society will be hosting the **40th** Annual Harvest Fair? What a milestone achievement for this event that continues to be the major fundraising endeavor that supports the Society's mission! The date is September 20, 2020. Doesn't that have a nice ring to it? Vendor Coordinator Pat Pereira tells me that applications are already coming in to ensure a spot in the lineup and take advantage of the early-bird registration fee. If you know of a crafter or antique dealer who would like to participate, please direct them to the Harvest Fair 2020 tab at holliston-historicalsociety.org for the informational letter and application.

If you would like to be part of the planning committee for this year's Fair – or want to know more before making this commitment – please contact Bea Hait at beateh1@aol.com or 508-429-3564.



The Harvest Fair on YouTube

To see Paul Saulnier's piece about the Fair for Holliston Cable Access TV, including interviews with Nancy Lamb, Bea Hait, and Frank and Terri Chamberlain, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edaDS17bsH8>

News from the House, Barn, and Grounds

To echo Patty Pereira in her recent letter to members, it has been an eventful year at the Holliston Historical Society! Not only did we wrap up the house kitchen renovation project, but we have upgraded the barn kitchen for safety with a hood over the stoves and new gas lines. In addition, the house and barn are in the process of being outfitted with a new fire alarm system. The board and committees have worked hard to spend our funds wisely while seeking help from outside sources, such as the Community Preservation Act monies we were granted at the October Town Meeting. We have done well with house and barn rentals again this year (thank you to Bill Hodge and Stewart Wohlrab) and the Harvest Fair and Oktoberfest were successful fundraisers thanks to Bea Hait and her committees.

—*mec*



Our thanks to Mark Ahronian of Ahronian Landscaping and Design for his generous donation of two large flowering bushes to adorn the gardens of the Asa Whiting House. Mark continues to be an avid supporter of the Historical Society.

—*Paul Saulnier*

Who was that in the Picture?

For anyone who reads the *Boston Globe*, did you notice a picture of Holliston Historical Society member, Frank Chamberlain, in the December 17th Metro section? You might have had trouble recognizing him since he does not usually wear a wig. There were several photos showing reenactors at Old South Meeting House for the 246th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party (Boston Tea Party occurred Dec 16, 1773). Frank Chamberlain was shown portraying John Hancock at the Meeting of the Body of People at Old South Meeting House that preceded the Tea Party. Frank did not dump any tea!

For those who need a refresher, here is a short version of the history of the Boston Tea Party and the meeting leading up to it.

The first of the tea ships, the Dartmouth, had arrived in Boston on November 28th. The Patriot faction had long known the tea was coming – they just did not know exactly when it would arrive. According to the Customs regulations, all ships arriving in the port had 20 days to unload and pay any duties assessed – like the Tea Tax. The Patriot leaders (Sam Adams and Hancock amongst them) would not let Francis Rotch, master and owner of the Dartmouth, land his cargo because that would legitimize the tea tax. Lieutenant (and Acting) Governor Thomas Hutchinson wouldn't let the ship leave port without landing the tea, because that would have been allowing the Patriots to get away with thumbing their noses at Royal authority.

The Patriot leaders convened a town meeting to decide what to do and sent poor Captain Rotch shuttling back and forth between Boston and Hutchinson's summer home in Milton, where the Lt. Governor had taken refuge after his home in Boston had been ransacked by the mob. The meeting lasted, off and on, for about two weeks, with attendance growing so large that the meeting had to be moved from Faneuil Hall to Old South Meeting House, which

was then the largest meeting house in the town. On December 16, knowing the deadline was fast approaching, the Patriot faction decided to send Rotch on one more trip to Milton to plead with the Governor. They laid their plans to unload (but not “land”) the tea in the event the Governor refused to agree to their demand that the Dartmouth be allowed to leave harbor with the tea still on board.

This is what the reenactment of the Meeting of the Body of the People tries to depict – the debate leading up to Rotch’s final, and ultimately futile trip to Milton, his return empty-handed, and Sam Adams’ prearranged signal to the crowd that “This meeting can do nothing more to save the country”. That set off the Tea Party proper – the actual dumping of some 340 chests of East India Company tea worth an estimated \$1.7 million dollars in today’s money into Boston Harbor.

Some background information from the web about the Boston Tea Party Annual Reenactment 2019:

Presented by Old South Meeting House and the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum Relive the event that changed American history forever- the Boston Tea Party - in the same place where it all began. Join Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and **John Hancock** (emphasis added) for a fiery debate about the tea tax. Then, follow the Sons of Liberty on a march to the tea ships in Boston Harbor to make salt-water tea.

--Carol Kosicki with historical information from Frank Chamberlain

Editor’s Note:

As the newsletter editor, I was copied on the e-mail exchange between Carol and Frank and thought I would share some more details. Carol commented to Frank that he was wearing a fancy coat during the reenactment and that he had looked the part. Frank

replied wryly, “I hope I don’t look *too* much like Hancock – he was dead by the time he was my age...” Frank then shared this information: “The suit is actually a copy of one belonging to Lemuel Cox as painted by JS Copley circa 1770. The copy was made for me by my friend Henry Cooke several years ago. Cox was an inventor and engineer [and he] built the first bridge between Boston and Charlestown.”

To see the photo of Frank as John Hancock, visit the article on Boston Globe.com:

http://epaper.bostonglobe.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=b2eee88d-587b-40fc-a444-93cf05c03300

—*mec*



Painting of Lemuel Cox by John Singleton Copley, 1770. This is the coat that Henry Cooke copied and that Frank Chamberlain wore during the reenactment of the Boston Tea Party events.

**Holliston Historical Society
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