
 Holliston Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022



A scene from a recent Harvest Fair with booths on the lawn and the Asa Whiting House in the background.

Dates to Remember.....

September 16—Pie Night (p. 3)

September 18—41st Harvest Fair (p. 3)

October 9—History Mystery Rallye (p. 7)

October 16—Car Show and Breakfast (p. 5)

October 21—Oktoberfest Dinner and Band (p. 6)

November 6—Bathsheba Spooner Book Reading (p. 7)

Holliston Historical Society *NEWSLETTER*

Fall 2022 • Volume 29, Number 3

A Publication of the Holliston Historical Society, Inc.
547 Washington Street, Holliston, Massachusetts 01746
Telephone: (508) 429-5795

<http://www.Hollistonhistoricalsociety.org>

Mary Curran, Editor

© 2022 Holliston Historical Society, Inc.

Officers

President	Nancy Lamb
Immediate Past President	Paul Saulnier
External Vice President	Jane Gilfoy
Internal Vice President	Sheila Adams
Secretary	Anne Tobin
Treasurer	Don Bates

Directors-at-Large

Pam Kyrka, Melissa Ford,
Pat Pereira, Ben Clarkson

Permanent/Standing Committee Chairs

Finance	Frank Melle
Nominations	Paul Saulnier
Education & Programs	OPEN
Collections	Nancy Lamb and Carol Kosicki
Property Management	Paul Saulnier
Library & Archives	Carol Kosicki and Joanne Hulbert
Membership	Patricia Pereira
Publicity and Publications	Pam Kyrka

Endowment Fund Chairman

David Grosjean

Web Services Chairman

Mary Curran

Annual Committee Chairs

Harvest Fair	Jane Gilfoy and Victoria Shotten
Decorations	Joanna Hilliard
Car Show	Paul Saulnier
Oktoberfest	Beate Hait

 Check out our new website:
www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org
where you can renew your membership
online with PayPal, check on events,
and learn more about the Harvest Fair.

UPCOMING EVENTS

41st Harvest Fair **Sunday, September 18 from 10 AM to 4 PM** **(rain date is September 25)**

We hope you are planning to attend and bring your family and friends to the 41st Harvest Fair! There will be crafts, antiques, collectibles, music by Always in Season, food, baked goods—including our apple pies—a silent auction, and open hours at the Asa Whiting House. We do not forget our youngest members; there will be activities for children too. It is a fun way for everyone to spend a fall day.

If you would like to be even more involved, we have several ways for you to help out at our biggest fundraiser of the year. If you have a few hours to give, we can use more volunteers that day. Shifts start at 6:30 AM and the clean-up crew works from 4-5:30 or so. To volunteer, please contact Bill Hatch at 508-429-5362.

How about coming to **Pie Night on Friday, Sept. 16** starting at 5:00 PM? After the pies are assembled, we enjoy pizza and beverages while sitting and socializing. On Saturday, we can use help baking and boxing the pies.

We are also looking for donations such as baked goods for the Society's Bake Table. You may drop off your baked item at the barn on Saturday or the morning of the Fair.

On the next page you will find requests for donations for our Silent Auction and our Treasure Shop. If you own a business, this could be a way to advertise it.

Questions? Contact Harvest Fair Coordinators Victoria Shotton at 617-407-0896 or Jane Gilfoy at 508-380-5579. We hope to see you there!

Seeking Donations for the Fair

The Silent Auction table is one of the most profitable areas of the Fair because there is hardly any expense, everything is donated. In addition to the vendor donations, Society member donations last year contributed almost half of the total Auction income! We hope that you can continue to support the Silent Auction; some items that sold well last year were: themed baskets, wine, art, and Holliston themed items.

Please let me know by email (clawless2@verizon.net) your donation and its approximate value. Your donations can be dropped off at the Society House on Friday afternoon September 16 or anytime Saturday September 17. If you are unable to drop off at those times, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your donations and enjoy the Fair!

—*Chryso Lawless, Silent Auction Chair*

Treasure Shop at the Harvest Fair

We are having our treasure shop once again at the Harvest Fair and we are asking for your contributions. If you have items such as antiques, collectables, or newer objects in very good condition that you might like to donate, please contact:

Sheila Adams at adamssjt1@aol.com or

Melissa Ford at melissaford905@gmail.com

**19.5 ANNUAL
FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST CRUISE**

***Rain Date—October 16, 2022
8AM to 10 AM***

No registration fee for cars and motorcycles of interest.

Trophies will be awarded.

\$10 gets you a full breakfast

Trophies awarded by:

Corcoran & Havlin Insurance Group/Hagerty Insurance
Quality Auto Body
Keystone Automotive
Authentic Auto Body
Hometown Automotive
Lou's Auto Garage
Vintage Motorsports
Rose's Automotive
Medfield on the Charles
BDR Automotive
AH Car Storage
"Jid" Kamitian Family
Kidde-Fenwall Inc.
Jack's Automotive
Mark Dellicker Construction Company
Green Plumbing & Heating
Thomas Chipman Electrical Contractor
W. A. Bernard, Inc., Fine Homes & Additions

For a complete listing of car shows, go to: <http://www.carshownationals.com/>

The Father's Day Car Cruise and Breakfast did happen in June, but since it was a rainy morning, Paul decided we should try it again! We will have a pancake and egg breakfast and, if the weather cooperates, 100+ cars on our grounds competing for trophies, sponsored by the above businesses. All are welcome to show their cars or to come admire them (and eat breakfast).

—mec

23rd Annual Oktoberfest

After a two-year hiatus, we're excited to invite you to Oktoberfest on **Friday, October 21 from 7 pm to 10 pm** (doors open at 6:30 pm) with fellow Historical Society members as well as your neighbors and friends. The Society's 1815 barn is the perfect venue for this festive occasion.

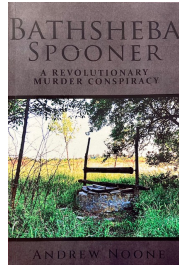
The featured entertainment again is the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band, which has performed at each of our Oktoberfests as well as all over the East Coast and Canada. The band's musical energy will get you laughing, singing and dancing a polka before the evening is done. Have you ever played the Stumpf Fiddle? This just might be your opportunity to do so!

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. Ken Onofrey from Crafted will give a description of the specialty beers available at this event. 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 14.

Members of the Society help with the setup, cooking, serving, decorations and clean up. If you'd like to join the volunteer fun, please contact Bill Hatch at bhatch17@gmail.com or 508-429-5362.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased through PayPal at hollistonhistoricalsociety.org and at Crafted, Fiske's and Superette. 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

Book Reading by Author Andrew Noone
Bathsheba Spooner
A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy
November 6, 2:00 PM

Come listen to author Andrew Noone read excerpts from his book, Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy and talk about the most sensational crime of the American Revolution. The title character, when five months pregnant, was hanged alongside her three British and American accomplices. Spooner, John Adams’ second cousin, was the first woman executed in the new nation. Mr. Noone will offer signed copies of his book for sale. Refreshments will follow the program, which will most likely be in the barn.

.....

History - Mystery Rallye October 9 at 2:00 PM



Join family and friends on a Sunday afternoon competing for cash prizes and bragging rights as you follow rallye directions leading to historic and notable places in Holliston. Vehicles will leave Saint Mary’s parking lot in one-minute intervals in search of answers to questions on rallye sheets handed to the navigator. This is not a timed event but distance is important. Get lost or make a wrong turn – lose points. Trivia questions will be handed out for extra points. Estimated driving time is 45 minutes. Winners will be announced at a reception immediately following around 4:00 PM. Entry Fee: \$15 per car early registration* by October 1st, \$20 on day of event. Rallye Hosted by St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus Council 14224. This is not a Society event, but the Knights of Columbus plan to give the Society a grant from the proceeds.

—Paul Saulnier

DETOUR ROAD CLOSED and SIDEWALKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION



With all the road and sidewalk work going on around Holliston, especially in front of my house, I thought I would look through some old Holliston Annual Reports looking for highway improvements. This is one I found: “Woodland Street has been relocated and widened and a new bridge built which very much improves the street”.

Many of you may remember when Woodland Street by the 8 Arch Bridge was moved closer to Factory Pond and a new bridge built. To my surprise, I found the Woodland Street improvements detailed above in the Annual Report for the Year Ending Feb 1, 1885. The 1885 report continues, explaining the purpose of the improvements: “at the same time making room for more extended additions to the Holliston Mills and other increased business”.

The relocation of Woodland Street that I remember began with the approval at the Dec. 31, 1962 Town Meeting “to authorize the Selectmen to take by eminent domain” the land on Woodland Street required for the project. This Woodland Street road improvement was done to reduce the large curve in the road and to lower the hill since this was the site of many accidents. The work was completed soon after the new Fred W. Miller Elementary School, located further up Woodland Street, opened in September 1962. I spoke with Joanne Hulbert who mentioned the 1920 cement bridge, so I went back to the Annual Reports.

From the March 1, 1920 Town Meeting:
“Art. 21. To see if the town will grant or appropriate money to

build a cement bridge over the Brook at the Mill on Woodland Street.” Per Article 4, \$400.00 was appropriated to build the bridge. Did the cement bridge replace bridge approved in 1885?

You can still see the remains of the pre 1960’s road, but I think the remains of the 1920 bridge have been recently removed. If you walk on the Rail Trail over the 8 Arch Bridge you can look at the interpretive sign to see pictures of the old Mill and the configuration of the old road.

—*Carol Kosicki*



The above rendition of the 8 Arch Bridge was painted by Samantha Tate in watercolor (shades of blue) and sold at a fundraiser for the Friends of the Holliston Trails.

Notes on The Draper Mansion

Like Carol Kosicki, Joanne Hulbert has a penchant for poking through the old files and she sent some notes she had found about the Draper Mansion in case I had room in the newsletter. I did!

—*mec*

I came across some papers I had around, copies of Dan Chase's notes on houses around Holliston. He cautions that these notes were all hearsay gathered by talking to townies. Written in the 1920-1940, some of them are really interesting even though they might be historical inaccurate, but some do ring true.

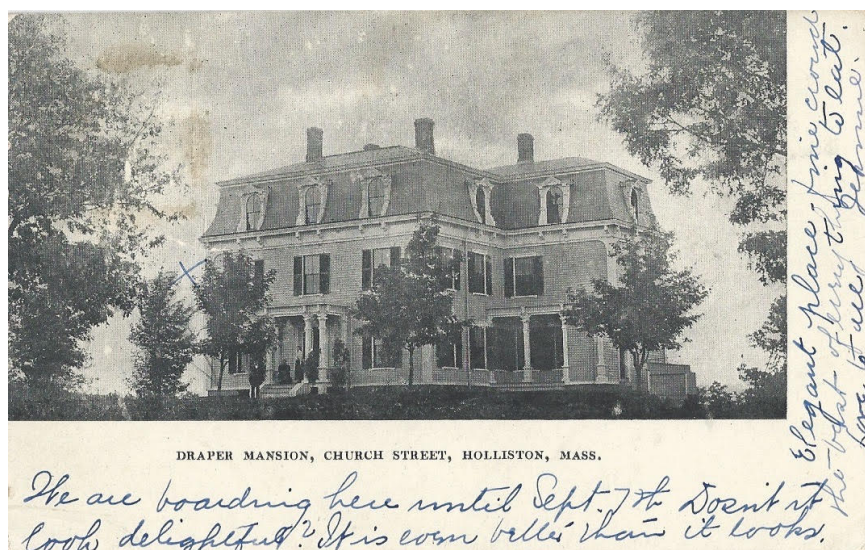
January 3, 1942 - [I] Looked over the "Draper Mansion," at the end of Franklin St. This is now being torn down; I've lived within 1/4 mile of it for 33 years, and never before been near it. Built by a William Draper, shoe mfg., who also built most of the small houses on Church and Central sts., east of the railroad. Draper went broke building it. Later owned by Clayton Joslyn. A 3-story, mansard roof place, rooms about 12 ft. High; fine woodwork, excellent construction; but nothing homey about it. Representation of the '70's and '80's. A house for show, not for living, and better destroyed. - Daniel Chase

I also stumbled across this note I found in the HHS files. It adds an interesting side note about mansard roofs. There's no author for this, as it was a handwritten note in a mish-mash of Holliston history. Here goes, take it with a dose of "local color":

The Draper mansion was built in 1872. Richard Hunt (1829-1895) a famous American architect, being influenced by his French training gave the impulse to

American taste that resulted in the building of the mansard roof, that is seen so universally in Paris. Before the Civil War, Hunt was building at Newport, and it was remarked that Mansard would turn in his grave, could he [see] to what purpose his plans were put in America. A notable example in this town of this style of architecture is the well-known Draper mansion which stands on an elevation a considerable distance back from Central street, south of the railroad station.

—Joanne Hulbert



A postcard of the Draper Mansion. The sender evidently had a better opinion of the place than some others did. The sender wrote, “We are boarding here until Sept. 7th. Doesn’t it look delightful? It is even better than it looks. Elegant place-fine crowd. The best of everything to eat.”

**Holliston Historical Society
547 Washington Street
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746-1818**

Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage PAID**

**Holliston, MA
01746
Permit #387**