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 Holliston Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**Summer 2023**



In April, Paul Revere visited the Holliston Historical Society barn! Actor Daniel Berger-Jones brought Mr. Revere and the early Revolutionary War time to life for the crowd of ninety people.

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

**June 18—Car Show and Breakfast (p. 4)**

**July 21—Community Sing (p. 5)**

**September 17—Annual Harvest Fair (p. 6)**

**October 20—Oktoberfest**

Holliston Historical Society *NEWSLETTER*  
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Mary Curran, Editor  
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**Officers until June 30**

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	Nancy Lamb and Sheila Adams
Nominations	Paul Saulnier
Education & Programs	Mary Curran and Judy Grosjean
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**

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

The board members and committee chairs listed above will remain in their positions until June 30. New officers were elected by members at the Annual Meeting in May. They will begin their terms on July 1. Please see page 10 for a recap of the Annual Meeting and elections. Committee heads will be voted at the July board meeting.

## President's Message to Members

Dear Members,

With our 2023 Annual Meeting now in the rearview mirror, we're excited to be on the horizon of another great year full of opportunities for history programs, fun, and fellowship with each other and our community! Thank you so much to everyone who volunteers on committees and for events!

As we head into the summer, we thought we'd mention a few of the activities where help would be appreciated at this time:

- **Planning for a community sing in late July**
- **Volunteering at other events**—the Father's Day Car show, Harvest Fair, Oktoberfest, and Holiday Open House are coming up in the next several months.
- **Helping to maintain our beautiful gardens**
- **Planning the Society's part in Holliston's 300th anniversary celebration in 2024**

Please be in touch if you have questions or would like to contact the chair of any of these activities: [nancybowenlamb@gmail.com](mailto:nancybowenlamb@gmail.com) or 508-667-2618.

With much gratitude for your support and participation in the Society,

Nancy Lamb  
President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
FATHERS DAY CAR SHOW  
&  
BREAKFAST  
June 18, 2023*



*Holliston Historical Society  
547 Washington Street  
Free to all antique & classic Cars & Trucks  
8AM to 10 AM*

For the last 20 years, vintage and classic cars have been on display at the Holliston Historical Society grounds. Drivers and the public enjoy a big breakfast in the barn and admire the beauty of these classic cars from years gone by. The grounds open at 8 AM and trophies are awarded at 10 AM. Come hungry! Proceeds help fund the mission and the many programs offered by the volunteers of the Holliston Historical Society.

—Paul Saulnier



## **Community Sing** Friday, July 21 in the evening

We are still working out some details for this event, but we have hired musician Roger Tincknell to lead the singing! Roger plays a number of instruments and we think this will be a program that will entertain folks of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens. Our outgoing president, Nancy Lamb, conceived this event as a way to bring people together through music. Singing common songs, we hope, will help heal a fractured society. We may have differing beliefs, but we can all come together and sing the same songs.

We are looking into having a few food trucks there for people to buy dinner before the singing commences. The timing might be 5:30-7:00 for dinner with the concert to follow for an hour or so.

Our hope is that this will bring the community together, be something fun that families might enjoy, and tie into our mission.

Thank you to those who have volunteered for this committee. There will be a meeting on Thursday, June 15 at 7:15 PM. Please come if you have ideas and suggestions or contact Nancy at [nancybowenlamb@gmail.com](mailto:nancybowenlamb@gmail.com).

We will send out an e-mail to members in July, but please mark this date on your calendars. It should be a fun way to spend a summer evening!

—*mec*

## **Upcoming Events, continued**

### **Harvest Fair**

Date: September 17, 2023, 10 AM-4 PM

Rain Date: September 24, 2023

#### Events:

Apple Pies will be available for sale. If interested you can volunteer to help make and assemble the pies open Friday night, September 15 in the barn. Time: 5:30 until they are completed.

The Treasure Shop will be open in the barn during the fair. We will be selling treasures that have been donated by members. If you have anything that you would like to donate and we can sell at the fair please contact Jane Gilfoy at [bgilfoy@aol.com](mailto:bgilfoy@aol.com). Please contact Jane before dropping off the item so it can be evaluated. We request if possible that the items are dropped off the week of September 11 as we are limited in storage space.

We will have an Auction Table which will display items donated by the Society members and the vendors. If you would like to donate a basket or item contact Jane Gilfoy at [bgilfoy@aol.com](mailto:bgilfoy@aol.com). Please stop by and place a bid!

Inside the Barn, we will serve lunch, menu to be determined. The Apple pies will be for sale in the barn as well.

Volunteers for the day are always welcome and appreciated. An email will go out to the members as we get closer to the date asking for help. It's lots of fun so please consider signing up for a shift or two!

This is a fundraiser for the Historical Society so please stop by to support the organization!

—Jane Gilfoy

### ***Charles Walker – Gettysburg, Penn.***

The idea for this newsletter article resulted from an inquiry that Joanne Hulbert and I received via the historical society librarian email and the timing was right since I am writing this on 5/26 and Memorial Day was celebrated this year on Monday, May 29.

The person that emailed us was doing a project to determine of the 3,155 Union soldiers that were killed at the Battle of Gettysburg how many were not buried at the Gettysburg National Cemetery. Specifically he asked if Charles Walker whose name is on a stone at Central Burying Ground was actually buried in Central and not at Gettysburg. Just because a name is on a family grave stone it does not guarantee that the person is buried there. We didn't know the answer and I thought it would be difficult to determine since we don't have cemetery burial records for Central Cemetery. For once it was not difficult.

I stopped at Town Hall at the Town Clerk's office and asked to look at the Deaths for the 1860's. I did not expect to find Charles Walker's name, but to my surprise his name was listed in the deaths for 1863 along with all the other residents of Holliston that had died in 1863.

The Holliston Death Register has more columns than shown but these were the most interesting for me.

Date	Name	Age	Place of Death	Place of Birth	Occupation	Place of Internment
7/2/1863	Charles J. Walker	23-11-15	Gettysburg, Penn	Holliston	Soldier	Holliston

So Charles was buried here. Then I looked at other entries on the page and the occupation SOLDIER appeared many times on the page. One was for Henry Bailey age 15-0-21 (yrs-months-days) who died in Bucks Station, Virginia. I would have to come back another day to check the book for deaths from 1861 to 1865 for

other Soldiers. One thing I am curious about was how many names listed on the Soldiers Monument in front of town hall were listed in the Holliston deaths and where they died. The Soldiers Monument lists the name of the Holliston soldiers that died during the Civil War. I also want to make sure if the soldier was buried in Holliston that the soldier's name was on the list of veterans buried in Holliston.



What a surprise when I went back to Town Hall today and who should already be taking out the 1860's Death Book but Joanne. So we shared the book. We haven't had time to really digest all that we saw but one thing caught our attention: there were two entries for soldiers who died in October of 1864 with the Place of Death Andersonville, Georgia. Had the bodies brought home? No, Place of internment Andersonville, Georgia. If you don't know what was at Andersonville, GA in 1864, it was the location of the Andersonville Prison, a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp. The cause of death for the two men: starvation for one and starvation and exposure for the other.



Memorial Day was first observed as Decoration Day on May 30, 1868 to honor the Union Soldiers who died in the Civil War.

—Carol Kosicki

The inscription reads:

A MARTYR TO FREEDOM  
CHARLES J. WALKER  
Killed in the Battle of Gettysburg  
July 2, 1863 Aged 24 yrs



## Hospitality

In this post-Covid year, the hospitality committee provided refreshments for in-person programs. Our schedule included the November program on Bathsheba Spooner by Andrew Noone, The Holiday Open House in December, “Antiques Roadshow” with Ken Van Blarcom in January, “The History of St. Mary’s” with Betty Febo in February, and “A Visit from Paul Revere” in April.

The committee also worked on the Potluck dinner in January and the Annual Meeting. Thank you to Laura Raney and all who provided refreshments for the sold-out movie night showing of “The Waking of Ned Devine.” Thank you also to Joanna Hilliard for the lovely table decorations for the Annual Meeting.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who provide the delicious refreshments at each meeting.

—*Sheila Adams*

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## Annual Meeting 2023 Wrap Up

Many people attended the Annual Meeting this year. It was great to see familiar faces, as well as welcome several new members. Carol Kosicki and Ben Clarkson presented a display of historical objects for all to guess at their use. Rather than the traditional potluck dinner, we switched it up and had a cookout with hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hotdogs, salads, and a dessert buffet provided by the attendees. Thanks to Victoria and her crew who grilled and to Sheila and her hospitality committee for providing us with such a delicious meal.

Nancy Lamb ably led her last meeting as President (although we would welcome her back any time), cleverly compiling all the committee reports into one year-in-review speech that she read,

using a sound system so all could hear. Don Bates gave his Treasurer's report. While we spent a lot of money on the property this year, our income was good and we were able to secure grants for much of the work. Next, we unanimously approved the slate of candidates for the board for the year beginning on July 1. There were no nominations from the floor. The new president will be Sheila Adams. Paul Saulnier will take on the position of Secretary while Nancy Lamb takes over from him as Past President. Richard Kattman will join the board as the Internal VP. Anne Tobin will be leaving the board, and Nancy thanked her for her years as Secretary.

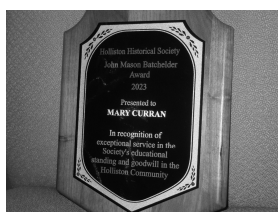
Finally, Nancy presented the awards; all three awards were given out this year. The Member of the Year award is given to a member or members who have exhibited extraordinary service during the President's current term. Nancy presented this award to Victoria Shotten who has jumped in and done so much more for the Society than was required in her positions as Property and Rental Manager. The John Mason Batchelder Award for Excellence in Education was presented to this editor for her work on the newsletter for many years and as co-chair of the programs committee in recent years. The President's Award may be given to a Society member who has exhibited extraordinary Society service for a significant length of years. Nancy presented that award to Paul Saulnier citing that she would not have been able to do her job as president without all his help.

With that, the meeting was adjourned, and the clean-up crew got to work. Thank you to all who made the annual meeting fun and successful!

—*mec*



Victoria Shotten accepts the  
Member of the Year Award from Nancy Lamb



The John Mason Batchelder Award  
awarded to Mary Curran



Paul Saulnier poses with Nancy after receiving the  
President's Award

## The Train Show was a Success

The Waushakum Live Steamers, The Hub Division, and other train organizations put on a show for kids of all ages in the Holliston Historical Society house and barn on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Hundreds of train enthusiasts



came to see Thomas The Tank Engine and learn about Walt Disney's affection for trains that started Disney Land.

Rides on a Waushakum train were a big hit!



Above, part of the Disney display and left, Thomas and Friends

President Nancy Lamb had to have her picture taken with "Disney Mike". Visit our website to see more pictures from the event.



## The Gardens

The Gardens continue to attract visitors and renters to the Historical Society. Thanks to Victoria Shotton, our property manager, the flower beds look great. This year we made a few changes to the lower, or wedding, garden. Time took its toll on the fountain, and repair didn't seem to be the best option. The fountain was removed, and the urn was placed next to the shoe shop. Grass was planted in the circle. This will allow more seating for weddings and other events in the lower garden.

Thanks to an ARPA grant, our septic system will be replaced this year. Preparatory work impacted the lawn next to the barn, but the grass has been replanted. The work on the septic system will start in November and the landscaping may have to be altered. We will have time over the winter to plan for replanting any areas that need work.

We recently bought new perennials to bring colorful seasonal blooms to our flower beds. Our goal is to have color in the flower beds throughout spring, summer, and fall.

We welcome all to come help with planting, weeding and general garden work even if you are not on the garden committee. Notices are sent out when we have a garden day. We would love to have volunteers come give us a hand, even if you only have an hour or so.

Thank you to the many volunteers who responded when we needed extra help to spread mulch or a spring or fall clean-up. A special thanks to Paul Saulnier for his help with the lawns and garden projects. And to Rick Kattman for his guidance and hands-on help with the gardens.

—Sheila Adams



A scene from the 2022 Harvest Fair  
In the foreground, members Greg, Linda, and Melissa sell Society goods and raffle tickets. In the garden, members Judy and David staff the children's activities area. Farther back are the alpacas from Matthew and Amy Varrell's Harvard Alpaca Ranch!



### DANIEL CHASE – A WRITER IN EARNEST

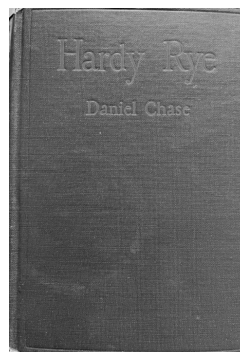
The history of Holliston has been recorded in fits and starts ever since the December 3, 1724 decision to establish us as a town and which also imposed upon the first citizens the name of Holliston. We have had several historians along the way that approached local history in different ways: Abner Morse in 1856 relied on genealogy for much of his book; John Mason Batchelder relied on his personal memories growing up in Holliston. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century there came to Holliston as a child, born Ernest Chase

and eventually known by his pen name as Daniel Chase, who nurtured his love of history on the local offerings that surrounded him. Each historian was constrained by the challenges of research and writing, but Daniel Chase made good use of the tools available – a typewriter and mounds of carbon paper. Chase’s interest was inspired by land grants and by solving the mysteries that were within them. I sincerely thank Mr. Chase for his deep research that I would not have had the courage to pursue.

Several of Chase’s unpublished manuscripts have been kept for decades in the files of the Historical Society library and are now being transcribed into a readable and shareable form to benefit future Holliston historians and ensure that the files will not be forgotten, a fitting project for Holliston’s impending 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Daniel Chase also published five novels written during the same time as he was working on historical research, and those five novels can still be read today. He borrowed many names from Holliston citizen for his characters who lived in the town of “Jaalam” with familiar landmarks throughout the books. If you are curious, you can read two of his novels on-line via Google Books: *Hardy Rye*, published in 1926 and *The Middle Passage*, published in 1923. Certainly, reading a bit of Dan Chase, either his massive historical research project or one of his novels, shall put us in the right frame of mind as Holliston’s 300<sup>th</sup> celebration approaches.

– Joanne Hulbert



**Holliston Historical Society  
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