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 Holliston Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**Spring/Summer 2024**



Along with the whole Town, the Holliston Historical Society will be celebrating this milestone year with special events and programs.

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

**April 20—Train Show (p. 4)**

**April 22-26—18th Century Week (p. 6)**

**May 11—Town Parade (p. 5)**

**May 19—Annual Meeting (p. 6)**

**June 16—Father's Day Car Show and Breakfast (p. 7)**

**June 23—Strawberry Festival (p. 7)**

**July TBD—Community Sing (p. 8)**

**July TBD—Farm to Table Dinner**

**September 22—Harvest Fair (p. 12)**

**November 2 and 3—Military Encampment (p. 13)**

**Dec. 3—Town Founding Program with Sherborn (p. 11)**

Holliston Historical Society *NEWSLETTER*  
Spring/Summer 2024 Volume 31, Number 2  
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Mary Curran, Editor  
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**Officers**

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

**Directors-at-Large**

Pam Kyrka, Melissa Ford,  
Pat Pereira, Ben Clarkson

**Permanent/Standing Committee Chairs**

Finance	Nancy Lamb
Nominations	Nancy Lamb
Education & Programs	Judy Grosjean and Mary Curran
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
Train Show and Car Show	Paul Saulnier
300th Committee	Beate Hait
Harvest Fair	Beate Hait

Karla Alfred, who keeps the Historical Society on the so-  
cial media platforms, reminds people to follow us on:

[www.facebook.com/HollistonHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/HollistonHistoricalSociety)

[www.instagram.com/hollistonhistorical/](http://www.instagram.com/hollistonhistorical/)

[www.twitter.com/hollistonhist](http://www.twitter.com/hollistonhist)

## President's Message to Members

### In Defense of Committees

Committees often have a reputation as being too slow to get anything done and take up too much time without producing results. But, we need committees. It is in committees where people come together to plan, manage, initiate actions and, when needed, solve problems. Committees mean meetings that can be time consuming, but people can meet in small groups to accomplish their goals. Although meeting in person is usually preferable, Zoom meetings allow us to stay home and be comfortable, but still exchange ideas.


Committees have many benefits. They bring together people of like interests. It is in gathering to work on a project that we get to know each other and form friendships. New ideas are contributed by individuals on a committee, and discussions can bring about solutions not otherwise considered. Responsibility is divided between members so that the burden does not fall on one person. More hands can speed up the work.

There are many committees that offer opportunities to become involved with the Historical Society. We have permanent committees and, as needed, seasonal or temporary committees dedicated to a particular project. If you like working outside, the Garden Committee welcomes you. If you are interested in our historic objects, join the Collections Committee. The Finance Committee handles our budget and expenses. The Web Services committee oversees our website. If you like writing, consider joining the Publicity and Publications committee. There are more committees. A list of some of our committees is available on our website, along with contacts. Or, you can contact me for more information. I encourage everyone to follow your interests and consider joining a committee. You will be glad you did.

—*Sheila Adams*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**HOLLISTON HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
-TRAIN SHOW-**



LOCATED AT THE HOLLISTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
547 Washington St, Holliston, MA 01746  
Directly across the street from the Holliston Police department

**APRIL 20, 2024**  
10 AM 4 PM

\$5.00 PER PERSON  
OR  
\$15.00 PER FAMILY  
FOOD CONCESSIONS

WAUSHAKUM LIVE STEAMERS

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HUB DIVISION HO SCALE OPERATING  
TRAIN LAYOUT & THOMAS LAYOUT

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WALT DISNEY LEGO RAILROAD

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O SCALE OPERATING TRAIN LAYOUT

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VIRTUAL TRAIN SIMULATOR

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G SCALE TRAIN LAYOUT

Once again, we are pleased to welcome the Waushakum Live Steamers and friends. They have put together an event that is sure to please kids and adults with G, HO and O scale trains. Displays will be in the barn and in the house. There may be rides on a train and other displays outside on the lawn too. Budding engineers can drive a virtual train on a big screen and an O scale train on a layout. Lunch and refreshments will be for sale in the barn. Come enjoy an hour or two—or all day—at the show and help support the Holliston Historical Society.

## **Town Parade on Saturday, May 11 Starts at 1:00 p.m.**

The Society's participation in the May 11 parade will include an 8-passenger wagonette drawn by two horses with a driver and groom provided to us by Remembrance Hill Carriages of Rehoboth. Passengers will be Ben Clarkson, Melissa Deutsch, Jane Gilfoy, Bill Hatch, Pam Kyrka, Jacque Page, Pat Pereira and Stewart Wohlrab.

We invite any Society member who wishes to walk in the parade alongside the wagonette to do so, and we encourage you to wear a Society t-shirt or polo shirt. We will also need two people to carry a banner in front of the wagonette, and I am hopeful that Society members walking alongside the wagonette will take turns carrying the banner. The parade route starts at Highland/Washington and ends at Woodland/Washington. Parade participants will be shuttled to the assembly area from Placentino School. To walk in the parade, please contact Patty Pereira (patpereira1106@gmail.com) by May 1 so we know who to expect and if you would like a t-shirt (a limited number and sizes are in inventory). In early May you'll receive an email with details of where and when to meet.

Undoubtedly, parking on this day along the parade route will be at a premium. As a special benefit of Society membership, you may reserve one of the 35 spaces available in the Society's parking area. We will offer lemonade, iced tea and water for sale to attendees watching the parade near the Society grounds, and we need a few people to help staff that beverage station. If you would like to reserve one of those parking spots or help with beverage sales, please contact Victoria Shotton (manager@hollistonhistoricalsociety.org). In early May you'll be notified regarding the time of street closures and other details.

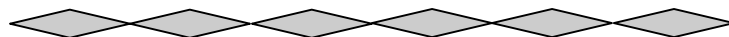
—Beate Hait

## **Upcoming Events, continued**

### **18th Century Week**

The Historical Society has hosted Holliston's third graders for decades. It is one of our most important outreach efforts and aligns perfectly with our mission 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."

The dates this year are April 22-26; there will be students coming on all five days. Terri Chamberlain and Judy Grosjean have begun the preparations of materials and are working on staffing the various learning areas for each day. Please contact Terri at [tjchamberlain76@gmail.com](mailto:tjchamberlain76@gmail.com) if you would like to help out.

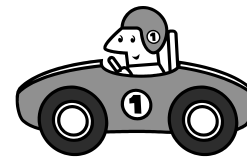


### **Annual Member Meeting May 19, 2024**

A committee will convene soon to work out the details, but mark your calendars for this informative and fun event. Join the board and other members to hear about what the HHS has accomplished in the past year, vote for new officers, and enjoy the company of a great group of people.

**21st Annual Fathers' Day Car Show and Breakfast  
June 16, 2024  
8 - 10 AM**

Chairperson Paul Saulnier expects to have at least 130 cars and trucks on display at this popular event. More than 20 trophies will be awarded. Admission is free for both spectators and folks with cars to show. A pancake and egg breakfast will be available in the barn for a \$10 donation. Free admission.



**The Strawberry Festival  
Sunday, June 23 from 1 to 4**

On June 23 we will welcome residents and visitors to stop by to enjoy home-made strawberry shortcakes, music by Always in Season, and lawn games for the young and the young-at-heart. Beverages and shortcakes (gluten-free option on request) with optional toppings of strawberries, whipped cream, vanilla ice cream, and chocolate fudge will be available for purchase.

Prior to the event day, we need to bake the shortcakes—on Thursday, June 20, starting at 9:00 a.m.—and wash and slice the strawberries—on Saturday, June 22, starting at 8:00 a.m. Of course, on the festival day itself, we also need volunteers to help with setup, whip the whipped cream, serve the shortcakes, and clean up. To fill one (or more) of the volunteer slots on any of these three days, please notify Bill Hatch ([bhhatch17@gmail.com](mailto:bhhatch17@gmail.com)), who is coordinating the task assignments.

—Beate Hait

## A community that sings together!

You're invited to another summertime Community Sing at the Society Barn! It's a delightful opportunity to lift spirits through music—singing some of your favorite songs and learning new ones. Our first sing last summer with Roger Tincknell was much enjoyed by everyone who attended, including kids.

We're considering a Friday evening on either July 19 or 26 and would love to have suggestions for the gathering from anyone who's interested, including children! Please contact Nancy Lamb: [nancybowenlamb@gmail.com](mailto:nancybowenlamb@gmail.com) or 508-667-2618.

And we look forward to seeing—and hearing—you in July!

—Nancy Lamb



Dear Members,

Might you have a used refrigerator that still has life but you do not need or use any longer? Maybe one that is in your garage and you would love to see it gone? The Society is in need of one for extra storage and would be more than happy to take it off your hands.

Kindly email [manager@hollistonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:manager@hollistonhistoricalsociety.org) or call 508-429-5795.

We thank you in advance.



## **Opportunities on the Web Services Committee**

The Web Services Committee is vital to the mission of the Historical Society! Our website is key to getting information about our programs and events out to our members and the public, advertising to and communicating with prospective renters, and processing payments in a timely and convenient way. We need folks who have skills or an interest in helping out with the Society's tech needs, especially website support and maintenance and IT. Please reach out to Sheila Adams by phone 429-4876 or e-mail [adamssjt1@verizon.net](mailto:adamssjt1@verizon.net) if you are looking for a way to get involved with this important part of our work.

Members who would like to park in the Society's parking lot during the 300th Anniversary Parade should contact Victoria at [manager@hollistonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:manager@hollistonhistoricalsociety.org) to put your name on the list of 35 spaces.

## Gardens and Grounds Update

Holliston Historical Society gardens and grounds are currently under construction as you will note on arriving at the property or driving by. The lawn space above the new septic system (between the house and barn) will be Hydro-seeded, anticipating a fine lawn in spring. Nearby, the Linden tree adjacent to the barn was removed, as it posed a danger to the barn following the construction work. The driveway at the barn has a new layer of stone dust paving, alleviating flooding of the tents during rainstorms, and the telephone pole curb is gone. Two new arbors are on order, arriving soon, to replace the existing arbors that were beyond repair. Long range plans are under consideration to eliminate invasive trees and shrubs at the property perimeters, relieving stress on our native plants.

A garden and grounds cleanup day is planned, with a call for volunteers to edge garden beds, spread mulch, and for general cleanup. The rainy weather has caused some setbacks. Watch your e-mail for dates and times.

Temporarily in disarray, the gardens and grounds shall thrive and glow with abundance and beauty come November. Donations are always welcome for improvement projects. Thank you for your patience and gracious help in beautifying the property.

—*Richard Kattman: Artist/ Landscape Architect/ Photographer*

The driveway and parking area has been regraded to prevent flooding and improve drainage and appearance. Herb Brockert did an outstanding job and we are very happy with the results. Thank you, Herb!

## Programs Update

In January, the Historical Society was pleased to partner with the Friends of the Library to host Sheryl Faye portraying Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In a multi-media show, Sheryl not only gave factual information about the late Supreme Court Justice, but gave us insight into aspects of her life that shaped her beliefs. If you have a chance to see Ms. Faye perform, please do.

In March, we hosted Holliston resident Denis Semprebon of Beacon Hill Restoration. Denis showed 300 slides of all aspects of the Bagley House restoration project. He was also a lively presenter and the audience had many questions, clearly engaged in topics which ranged from insect damage to period wallpaper.

Both Tuesday evening programs had about 35 attendees, some members and some non-members. It was wonderful to see new faces! We hope to have each of these presenters back for future programs.

Since the Historical Society is running some special events for this 300th anniversary year—as well as our usual ones—the Programs Chairpersons have decided that we will not add any more programs to the schedule this spring and summer.

On December 3rd, the actual date of Holliston's incorporation, Joanne Hulbert will be presenting a joint program with George Fiske and Betsy Johnson from the Sherborn Historical Society. When Holliston split off from Sherborn 300 years ago, Sherborn was celebrating its 50th anniversary, so both towns are celebrating milestone birthdays this year. We will have more details about this in our Fall newsletter.

In the meantime, we hope to see you at one or more of our many upcoming activities!

—*mec*

## **43rd COUNTRY HARVEST FAIR**

DATE: Sunday, September 22, 2024

RAIN DATE: Sunday, September 29, 2024

TIME: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

I'm excited to announce that over half of the booth space has already been reserved for this year's Harvest Fair by new and returning crafters. The discounted early-bird registration fee ends on May 31, so if you—or a crafter you know—has been thinking about participating, the time to get the application in is now. Vendor information and application can be found on our website ([www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org)) then click on "Harvest Fair."

As I'm sure you're aware, we rely on many of our members to help assemble and bake our famous apple pies that get sold at the Harvest Fair. Mary Curran has spearheaded this effort for many years. This year on Pie Night (the Friday before the Fair), she is hoping to train her replacement to keep this tradition alive in future years. If this piques your interest, please contact Mary ([mecksf@gmail.com](mailto:mecksf@gmail.com)) to get details of what is involved so you can make an informed decision about contributing to the Harvest Fair in this way.

—*Beate Hait*

## Revolutionary War-era Military Encampment and Demonstrations of Camp Life

Saturday, Nov. 2, from 10 to 4  
and Sunday, Nov. 3, from 10 to Noon



What was camp life like for a member of a military regiment in 18th century New England in the Revolutionary War era? Several Society members belong to such re-enactment groups: the 10th Massachusetts Regiment (Frank Chamberlain), Colonel Bailey's 2nd Mass. Regiment (Terri Chamberlain), and the Royal Irish Artillery (Rick and Joanne Brown). Set up on the Society's grounds for attendees' enjoyment and education will be wedge tents (used for sleeping), dining flies, a commissary, and supply tents. Learn about swords and weapons. Demonstrations include spinning, weaving, woodworking, leatherwork, and 18th century cooking. Children will have an opportunity to participate in a drill with toy muskets. Cannon drills and firings (with blank rounds) are also on the schedule.

Admission is free, and soups and other refreshments to quench the appetite and thirst of attendees will be available for purchase. To volunteer on either (or both) of these days to serve refreshments or help with other tasks, contact Bill Hatch (bhatch17@gmail.com).

—Beate Hait

*Editor's note: black and white does not do justice to the customized 300th logo for the Encampment (above), so watch for it in future publicity pieces. —mec*

### ***Webster Moorside Ward of State (Part 2)***

For the December newsletter, I wrote an article about a little boy name Webster Moorside a ward of the state who is buried at Lake Grove Cemetery. At the end of the article I noted that I had probably found out all I could about Webster. Well, I was wrong. Historical Society member Stephanie Dyson read the article and did some digging. Much to my surprise I received an email from Stephanie with a copy of Webster's handwritten state records in cursive. Stephanie had obtained the records from the Mass Archives in Boston. These records are not online. The records are from: Register of children placed out, Vol 30 / State Board of Charity series. Webster's death record spells his name "Moorside" but these state records spell it "Moorside."

#### *Webster F. Moorside*

**History:** *Born June 10, 1894 in Philadelphia  
Parents John and Catherine Their child was taken  
by the Massachusetts Infant Asylum in Sept 1894 and  
had been deserted by his parents. Committed to the cus-  
tody of the State Board of Lunacy and Charity June 25,  
1896 by the Overseers of the Poor of Boston.*

*Transferred from Dept Out ...*

**Record:** My Notes: It was on his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday that Webster went to live with the Clark family ("placed out"), and he remained with them until his death. His record contains the notes from his placement with the Clarks and from in-person follow up visits that occurred every few months as well as some of his medical information. They include information on his health, appearance and behavior.

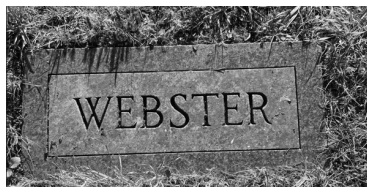
A sampling of his record: *June 10, 1897. On board with  
Mrs. Emma A. Clark of Holliston, Mass. Oct 2, 1897. Do-*

*ing well in home but has a temper. Well and has good habits. Receives good care. Dec 20, 97. A mischievous determined little fellow never still a minute.... Dec 23, 98. ...A pretty boy with the exception of being cross-eyed. April 7, 99. Placed at Mrs. Gerry's today. Will go to the Eye and Ear Infirmary for treatment tomorrow. April 14, 99. Removed from the infirmary the 13 remained overnight with Mrs. Gerry and today returned to Mrs. Fred C. Clark of Holliston. June 2, 1999. Has had the German measles. Wears his glasses faithfully but his eyes do not seem to be straightening.*

*Jan 2, 1900. Has had the measles and was out of school for two weeks. July 27, 1900. Has been promoted at school. Has good care. Nov 2. Dr. Haviland writes Webster was ill with scarletina. Nov 5. Dr. Haviland telephones the chances for Webster's recovery are against him, but he is receiving every care from Mrs. Clark. Nov 12, 1900. Dr. Haviland writes Webster is still in a critical condition. Nov 19, 1900. Dr. Haviland writes Webster died yesterday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of his scarlet fever from general blood poisoning. Nov 19, 1900. Miss L.B. Hancock reports in full on Webster's illness and burial.*

It is hard not to compare the care and state oversight given to Webster to what one reads today about some of the children in the foster care system. Thanks again to Stephanie.

—Carol Kosicki



A photo of Webster Moorside's grave in the Potter's Field at Lake Grove Cemetery, Holliston.

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

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