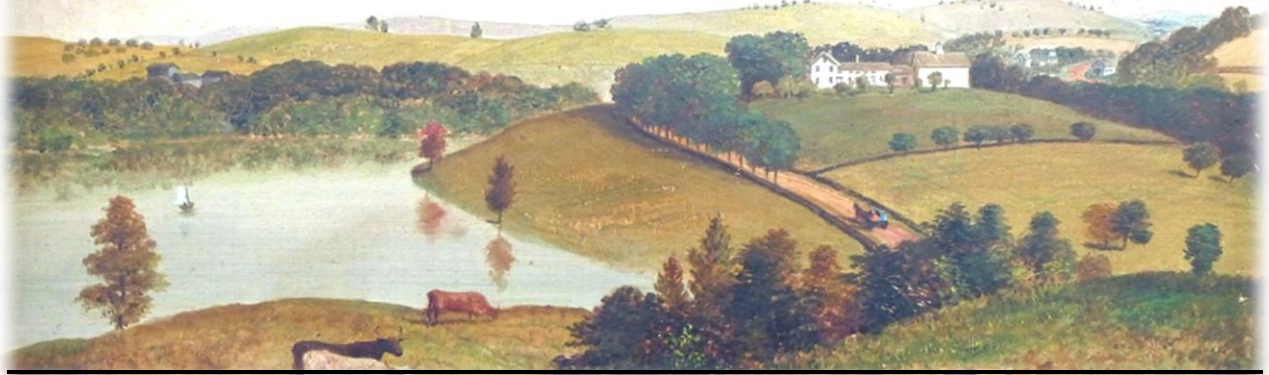


Newsletter

of

The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc.

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July, 2018

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the members was held June 14 at the Lunenburg Public Library. President Chuck Venezia and treasurer Kim Maki presented the following reports:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month marks the end of my first year as President of the Lunenburg Historical Society. The year has been a great experience for me. The best part has been working with Historical Society staff, members, and others in the community.

The highlights of the past year, our 2018 fiscal year, include these:

- We hosted the third grade tour this month.
- We have a changeable photo display in the vestibule.
- Our recently-donated conference table is a wonderful addition to our Research Room.
- We have some great pieces of history from the estate of Nancy Bigelow as well as a wealth of Nancy's historical research documents.
- Donations relating to the Peabody family shoemaking business are on display and were documented in a video produced for Public Access.
- Harvey Price made a record-breaking monetary donation to the Society.



I send a big “Thank you!” to the people who made this year what it was.

As I look forward to the coming year, I hope that we can do even more. Please consider joining us as a volunteer so that we can make this happen. It is your historical society!

Chuck Venezia

TREASURER’S REPORT

As the fiscal year ending June 30th comes to a close, the Lunenburg Historical Society Board of Directors is reflecting on finances over the past year. We have maintained a strong cash position and are pleased with our new partnership with the Community Foundation. We concentrated on fundraising to shore up our reserves for future needs and we were humbled to be the recipient of some very generous memorial donations.

After several years of investing in long overdue capital improvements, we leveraged the skills of our core group of volunteers to minimize the cost of any recent repairs and maintenance. We were able to offer the community access to our shared history while incurring minimal overhead, particularly through our well attended programs and meetings at the Lunenburg Library.

The Board continues to be committed to providing good stewardship and would be happy to provide more detail of expenses upon request. As always, thank you for your support!

Kim Maki

(Editor’s note: We are extremely fortunate to have the volunteer services of Kim, a professional CPA, both as our treasurer and a member of the board of directors.)

June 14 Program

Sixty-two “children” from infancy to senior citizens, enjoyed the feature program, starring the Whalom Park hand puppets, which have been resting for many years at the Society. Under the skillful manipulations of Jeffrey Koslik of Drawbridge Puppet Theater and our own volunteer, Kevin Boussom, they once again came to life, performing “The Runaway Fried Dough Man.”

Call it a double feature if you will, as all in attendance enjoyed another performance entitled, “The Princess and the Pea.”



Under the skilled hands and fingers of Kevin Boussom, the children were enthralled by a demonstration of a marionette dancing and bowing before them as they sat on the floor in front of the puppet theater.



Kevin Boussom



Jeffrey Koslik

What's New at the Society

By Bill Tyler, Accessions Chair

THE OLD WEST SCHOOL

The West School at the corner of Whalom Road and Youngs Road was built in 1889 to replace the one room school house on West Street. At the time it was considered a modern and excellent two story structure, with two classrooms. According to Town records, it was built at a cost of \$3500.00. In 1956 it was closed as a school but had the distinction of being the longest in use of any outlying school in the area. The VFW used it as its headquarters until 1975, when it was partially destroyed by fire. The building is now a private residence, after being extensively remodeled.



The Historical Society recently received a donation of a hand bell that was used to call the students to class. It was donated by Mr. John Obed Curtis, of Brimfield, Massachusetts. His grandmother, Jennie Elvira Spooner, was born 25 August, 1884 in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, the eldest of thirteen children. She graduated from Fitchburg Normal School, qualified to teach elementary school. On September 17, 1906, she married Obed Freeman Darch of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. After her children were grown, she accepted a teaching position at the Baker Station School, which is what the West School was often called. She taught first, second and third grade classes, and during her career she also taught fourth, fifth and sixth grades. She retired after World War II and moved to Ashburnham.



Vacation Time

The Society building will be closed Wednesdays, August 1 and August 8 for vacation. But, if you have an important inquiry, please call or email us, and we will be available.

Memberships

A reminder: We closed our fiscal year June 30. Your membership expiration coincides with that date. If you have forgotten your annual membership donation, please locate your dues renewal form, write a check today, and mail it. Or, use the option of the “Donate” button on our web site. Both addresses are listed on this newsletter’s masthead. Thank you!

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