

# Newsletter

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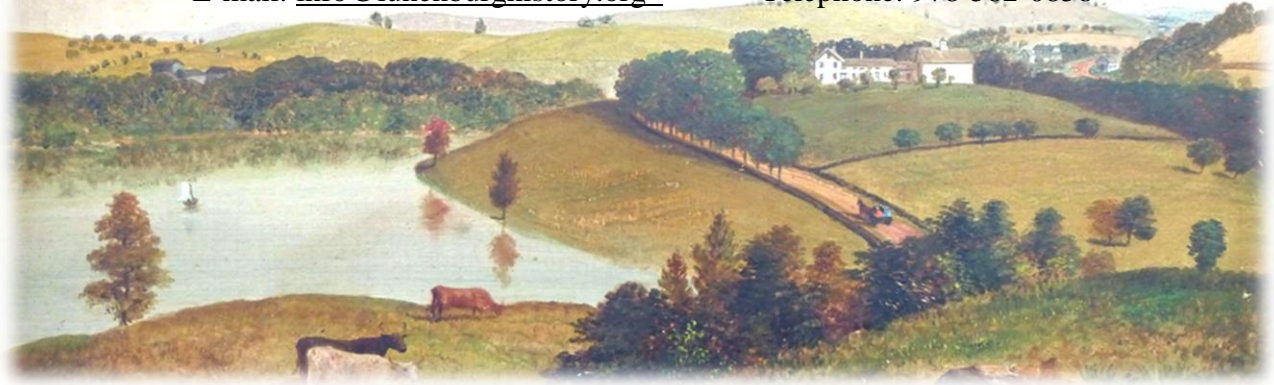
## The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc.

10 School Street Lunenburg, MA 01462-1344

[www.lunenburghistory.org](http://www.lunenburghistory.org)

E-mail: [info@lunenburghistory.org](mailto:info@lunenburghistory.org)

Telephone: 978-582-0858



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September, 2017

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## A New Board of Directors

Yes, they are familiar faces, but it is a new photograph of board members elected June 8 at the annual meeting.



From left to right: John F. Lattanzi, director. Kim Kemp Maki, treasurer, C. William Lakso, secretary, William E. Tyler, vice president, Jennifer L. Sanderson, curator, and Chuck Venezia, president.

Absent is G. Stephen Schaff, director.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On June 8, 2017, I was elected president of the Lunenburg Historical Society. I am honored to be given this opportunity to serve the Society. Bill Lakso held the position for the previous four years. “Bill is a tough act to follow” is a huge understatement. Fortunately for us all, Bill is remaining very active and is serving as our Secretary.

I have to admit that history was my least enjoyable subject in high school. As a math major in college, I made it through without any additional such suffering required. Now, here I am! What is it that I find so satisfying about history in this context?

First, there are the wonderful volunteers of the Historical Society. It is enjoyable and educational to work with these talented, knowledgeable and generous people. Next, I am fascinated by local history – people and events that have left marks that can still be seen in the town and on the people living in the town. Finally, I am very interested in the pieces of history that we have in our collection – things I can see with my own eyes and touch with my own hands. As a hobbyist woodworker, the tools and furniture are highlights for me. In this newsletter, Bill Tyler describes some of our amazing recent acquisitions.

As the summer winds down, we will be keeping busy. We will have educational programs presented at the library on September 7 and November 2. Our Yard and Craft Sale will be held October 8. I hope that you will join us for these activities.

Chuck Venezia

## AN EXCITING PROGRAM COMING NOVEMBER 2

**Eric M. Howe**, PhD will demonstrate how an electrostatic generator produces electrical power by simply turning a hand crank. It will be a sparkling and sparking program, including audience participation. Dr. Howe is Associate Professor of Science Education at Assumption College, Worcester, with an impressive record of lectures and presentations at international conferences on philosophy and science teaching. He has authored and co-authored numerous publications and has earned B.S., MBA, MAT and Ph.D. degrees.

His hobby could be termed, “Playing with static electricity” as we shall experience during his presentation.



Our own electrostatic generator will be on display. It was used in Lunenburg Schools from 1906 to 1912 by Ms. Lillian Nicholson to teach children how static electricity can be produced. Ms. Nicholson married Grover Barney, Sr. in 1911. A son, Wilbur was born in 1915 and later became the father of Stanley W. Barney, who donated the generator to the Lunenburg Historical Society in April, 1999.



We are saddened by the death of a long-time friend and volunteer worker, Nancy L. Bigelow at age 83. Nancy was SO proud of her Lunenburg ancestry! Lunenburg, and its history, "possessed" her. She spent SO many years volunteering at the Historical Society, eagerly acquiring more knowledge of the town's past. The results of her countless hours of historical research were shared with many folks over the years.

We each contribute to the Historical Society in our own unique way based on our abilities and interests. Nancy's contributions will always be with us.

# We have a pillory!

**Why?** To raise funds for the Lunenburg Historical Society.

**How?** Have a friend or relative sentenced to serve a term in the pillory, there to remain until his or her bail is paid at the rate of five dollars per minute to a maximum of three minutes. (Ears will not be nailed to the wood - see below.)

**When?** To be featured at the **yard sale & crafts fair, October 8 at the Society's headquarters, 10 School Street, Lunenburg**



*The pillory, or "stretch-neck," called "the essence of punishment" in England, stood in the main squares of towns up and down the colonies. An upright board, hinged or divided in half with a hole in which the head was set fast, it usually also had two openings for the hands. Often the ears of the subject were nailed to the wood on either side of the head hole. In 1648 in Maryland, John Goneere, convicted of perjury, was "nayed by both eares to the pillory 3 nailes in each eare and the nailes to be slitt out, and whipped 20 good lashes."*

*The pillory was employed for treason, sedition, arson, blasphemy, witchcraft, perjury, wife beating, cheating, forgery, coin clipping, dice cogging, slandering, conjuring, fortune-telling, and drunkenness, among other offenses. One man was set in the pillory for delivering false dinner invitations; another for being the author of a rough practical joke; another for selling a harmful quack medicine. All sharpers, beggars, vagabonds, and shiftless persons were in danger of being pilloried. On several occasions, onlookers pelted the pilloried prisoner so enthusiastically with heavy missiles that death resulted.*

*Often referred to as "stocks," the term is erroneous. Stocks were an apparatus with holes to confine the ankles. This necessitated the miscreant to be in a sitting position, as shown in this old photograph taken in Bramhall, England.*



(Photo from Wikipedia)

# Come to our Yard Sale and Craft Fair!

**October 8, 2017 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

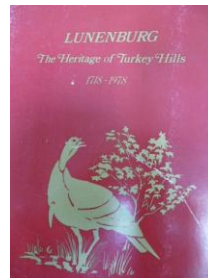
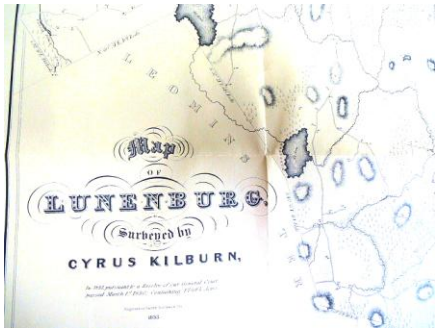
*Book space for your yard sale goods or crafts.*

*Pre-register before Oct. 7 - \$15.00*

*Register on site Oct. 8 - \$20.00*

Sentence a friend or relative to time in the pillory. Have him/her released after paying bail at \$5.00 per minute. Take a photo for \$5.00!

**We will have books, maps of Lunenburg, “Cat’s Meow” building replicas and much more for sale at our table in front of our building.**



## YARD SALE & CRAFT FAIR REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify:      Craft Items \_\_\_\_\_              Miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the form and mail to:

The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc. 10 School Street, Lunenburg MA 01462-1344

You can also send an email with the information to [info@lunenburghistory.org](mailto:info@lunenburghistory.org) or register on our website

<http://www.lunenburghistory.org/hoursevents.html> The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc. is a Chapter 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, and all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

- The setup will be from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM.
- Payment will be due during the setup time on the day of the event. We will accept cash and checks made out to “Lunenburg Historical Society.”
- The cost for pre-registered sellers is \$15. Those who are pre-registered are guaranteed a spot. The cost to register on the day of the event is \$20. We cannot guarantee that a spot will be available if you are not pre-registered.
- Sellers will be responsible for providing tables.
- Please do not leave anything at the site when you leave.

# WHAT'S NEW at the LUNENBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Bill Tyler, Acquisitions Chair

## The Peabody Collection



We at the Historical Society are blessed with an embarrassment of riches when it comes to items donated to us over the years, nothing more evident than what has been acquired here from the generosity of the Peabody Family. This family has been in Lunenburg since 1787, occupying the so named John Peabody House for more 185 years. John's son Joseph used a shop on the property for his cordwainer or shoemaking business in the early to mid- 1800's.

His sons Joseph and William carried on

the business after his death, until more and more shoes and boots became machine made.

We were very excited when we learned a descendant of Joseph wanted to donate some items including his Great- Great Grandfathers shoemaking bench along with his tools and day books where he recorded the shoes and boots he made and repaired. We can't thank Bill Millington enough for his desire to see these magnificent items cared for and displayed for the residents of Lunenburg to enjoy for generations to come.



Here, Chuck Venezia, Doug Fleming and Bill Tyler examine tools of the shoemaker's trade.

***We always welcome new members and volunteers to do some interesting and entertaining activities. Join us!***

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member of, or renew your membership in the Historical Society by selecting a membership level and mailing your check to ***The Lunenburg Historical Society, 10 School Street, Lunenburg, MA 01462-1344.***

*Memberships are valid to June 30, 2018.*

*Individual - \$25.00*

*Family- \$40.00*

*Contributing - \$60.00*

*Supporting - \$125.00*

*Corporate - \$300.00*

*Student/Senior (70+) \$20.00*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_