

Newsletter

of

The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc.

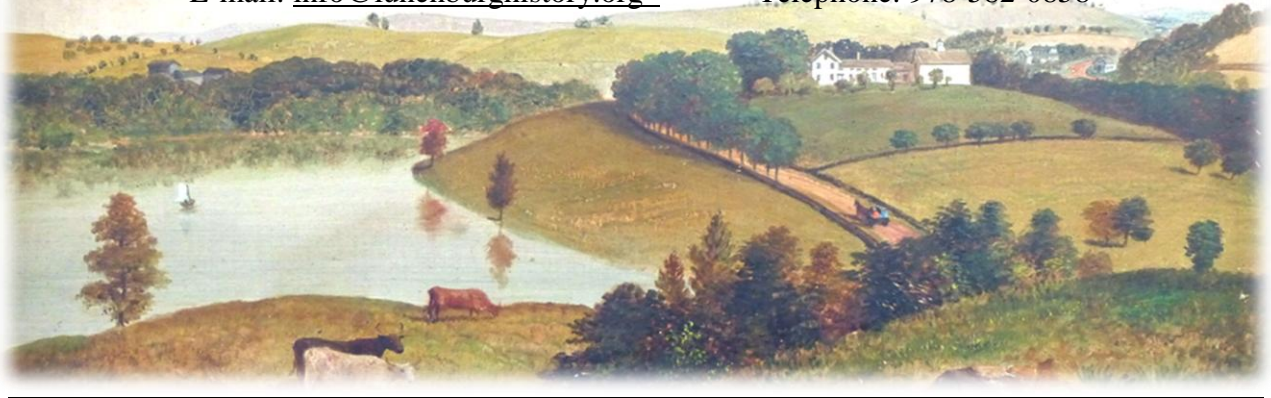
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March, 2018

A Remarkable Gift

The telephone call came a day or two before Christmas. Harvey Price was the caller, asking, “Did you receive some mail from me?” “No,” was the response. “Well, I can’t remember when I mailed it – maybe it was yesterday, but look for it.”

On the morning of December 26, the envelope arrived with a check enclosed, to which was attached a small stick-on note, reading, “For all you do..... Harvey

(Half-price) and Aggie.” ***The check was written in the amount of \$10,000.00!*** Naturally, we were astounded at the receipt of such a generous gift to the Society. Harvey and Agnes Price have been added to our plaque of Life Members and Major Donors on display at our headquarters. The donation has been deposited into our Reserve Fund.



Agnes Price has left our world, leaving much sadness behind, but she will be long remembered, along with

Harvey’s father, Ralph, affectionately referred to as “Pappy” by Harvey. We thank Harvey and “Aggie” for their generosity and community spirit and hope that Harvey remains with us for years to come. We love that cider, Harvey!

A Message From President Chuck

As a non-profit organization, the Lunenburg Historical Society is dependent on the kindness and generosity of the people that are interested in our success. When I previewed the articles included in this newsletter, I was amazed and thankful that so many such people live here in Lunenburg! The Historical Society has been very fortunate to receive many gifts of money, gifts of physical objects, and gifts of time and talent.



I suspect that we can all be overwhelmed at times by the happenings in the wide world around us – at least I know that I can. To see what wonderful things can be done on a small and local scale is often my antidote to those feelings. I have only been in Lunenburg since 2005, but I feel very lucky to live here, be a part of this community, and bring up our two boys here.

I hope that you all enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I did.

Another Wonderful Gift

Another wonderful gift arrived recently. It is a beautiful conference table, nearly eight feet long and 34 inches in width.



It was crafted by Scott W. Foster in 1983 for use in his office at Foster Insurance. Scott has recently retired and generously donated the table to the Society. It will serve us well for meetings and work projects. Thank you, Scott!

Not the Wabash Cannonball



Nor is it the B. & O., or the New York Central, or the New York, New Haven & Hartford, but it will be interesting. It is the *Central Mass Railroad* we will hear about at our first educational program of 2018 at the Lunenburg Public Library on April 5, at 7:00 p.m. Railroad enthusiast Mr. Ed Sterling has amassed a vast library of books and photos on the Boston and Maine Railroad, which operated the Central Mass Railroad for most of its history. The Fitchburg Branch of the railroad served our area. He'll be telling us much more. Come and enjoy!

What's the Difference?

People often confuse a historical society with a historical commission. Here's the difference:

Local **Historical Commissions** are the official agents of municipal government responsible for community-wide preservation and protection of historic buildings and archeological sites. They are funded by the local city or town.

A **Historical Society** is a private, non-profit organization. Historical Societies preserve local history through house museums, maintaining collections, records and presenting educational public programs. They are not funded by municipalities, but raise their own funds to support the institution.

We have two officers of the Society who serve on the Lunenburg Historical Commission. Jennifer Sanderson has been a member since earlier this year, and Bill Lakso was appointed by the board of selectmen February 20.

Here's to Kevin!

Youthful volunteer Kevin Boussom is an outstanding young man! He has a deep and sincere interest in history, and of his own volition recently produced a marvelous video based on our recently-acquired shoemaker's bench donated by Bill Millington, a descendant of the Peabody family. His video, which he also narrates was created for LATV and can be viewed on YouTube. Kevin studied the bench and tools intently and gathered more information on shoemaking by interviewing Stephen Keosian, proprietor of Keosa Brothers Shoe Repair in Fitchburg, as part of his project.

Kevin was also interviewed by the Lunenburg Ledger about his video. The article was published in the March 2 issue of the Ledger, and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ki78gRDmums>

A History

Our newsletter editor, Bill Lakso, has written a history of *Laurelbank Conservation Area*, formerly Laurelbank Farm prior to its acquisition by the town. A companion article, "My Days at Laurelbank" tells of Bill's childhood on the farm. It is available for a quick read at the Society's headquarters.

What's New at the Society

By Bill Tyler, Acquisitions Chair

Lunenburg High School Photo Display

We, who were fortunate enough to attend Lunenburg High School, have different memories of our four years spent there. Some remember sporting events and the teams they were a part of. Others recall classmates and friendships they acquired. As we grow older, some of those memories fade. When the old high school was torn down to make way for the new middle-high School, many people including me were very sad to see it go. The memories of the corridors, class rooms and gym were so familiar to us. Through the efforts of many people, some artifacts were preserved, and one of those items was the display rack in the foyer of the high

school that held a photo montage of almost every class that passed through those hallowed doors.



We at the Historical Society often accept donations, not knowing at the moment what we will do with them. We just know they have to be preserved, even if temporarily relegated to some dark corner of our attic.

Recently, we decided it was time to display these photo montages so that former students could see photographs of their teams and class pictures. We are

happy to announce that the display is now alive and well and ready for your perusal. It is located in the foyer of our museum on School Street. Please come and stir those memories!

Your Membership

Please do us a favor: Check your membership card and the expiration date. If it is June, 2018, we will invite you to renew for another year at the same rate as last year. If the date reads June 2017 or before, you will be asked to renew for 2018 **and** 2019. Dues reminders will be issued during April or May. Help us continue the good work of preserving Lunenburg's history for you.

We thank our sponsors for their contributions to help defray the costs of producing this newsletter. Please consider them for products and services you are contemplating purchasing.

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