

# Newsletter

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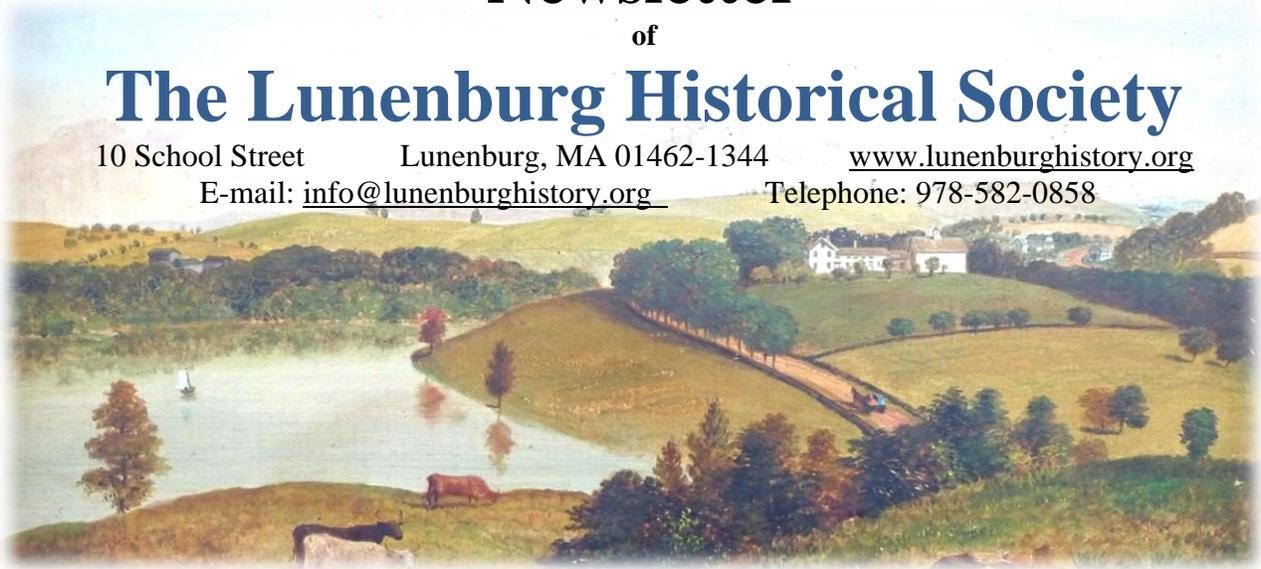
## The Lunenburg Historical Society

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chuck Venezia

I hope that you are all doing well. We are pleased to offer our first newsletter in a while. I think that this notice says a lot about the situation over the past 16 months:



I printed this sign not long after we closed in March of 2020. The sign was posted in the window by the front door of the Historical Society building until a few weeks ago, when I replaced it with a sign announcing our reopening on July 21, 2021. You can see how my expectations changed during the early weeks of the pandemic. I imagine that many people had this same experience.

At first, I expected that we would reopen in a few weeks, on April 1. When it became obvious that would not be possible, I gave it one more week to April 8, then another month to May 6. When that didn't work out, I finally admitted that we were in for the long haul and gave up the idea of predicting a

date. In the end, the sign was posted for so long that the sun faded the "permanent" marker!

Now that we are open again, I look forward to welcoming you back to the Historical Society. Please stop by to visit us!

## A GENEROUS DONATION

Life members, Scott and Sarah Foster, have departed Lunenburg, ending a long history of the Foster family's presence in town. They have been strong and generous supporters of the Society and have left us a very significant parting gift – a collection of artworks, including paintings, prints and engravings, totaling 50 in



number! We were encouraged to dispose of the collection as a fundraiser in a manner to best benefit the Society. With thanks to Curator Jennifer Sanderson for photographing and cataloguing, and Vice President Bill Tyler for his familiarity with auction houses, the entire collection was transported to Cobbs Auctions in Peterborough, New Hampshire, where Mr. Charles Cobb will see to their disposition, and forward proceeds to the Society.

Bill Tyler and Chuck Venezia delivering artworks

## WELCOME THOMAS FUEL

Our fuel oil deliveries, beginning with the fall season will be made by our new local supplier, Thomas Fuel of Lunenburg. We are pleased to be dealing with our neighbor, who has been supplying fuel oil needs for hundreds of customers here in north central Massachusetts since 1932. Dan Thomas joined the business in 1975,



following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Dan's daughter, Tessa Poirier runs the office of the company, and her husband Rob, fills out the staff of three. Dan promises we will get the best fuel oil price and service available.

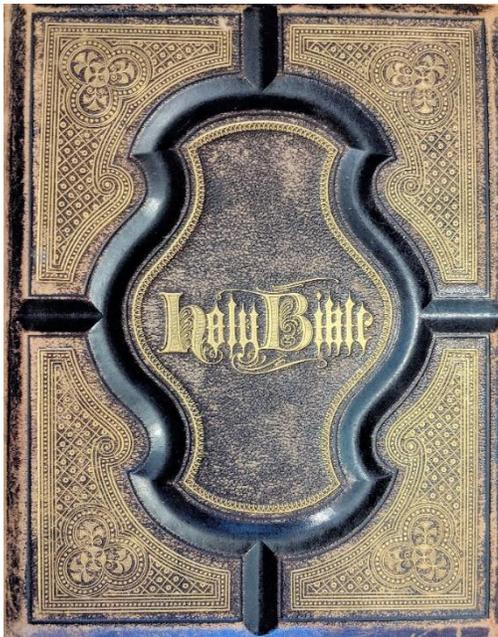
## THE JOSEPH GOODRICH FAMILY BIBLE

By Bill Tyler

The Society regularly receives offers of old family Bibles. At present we have a number of them, including some printed in Lunenburg. Generally, unless the Bible has a definite connection to Lunenburg, with genealogical entries, we tend not to accept them. Such is not the case with the Bible that was donated to us very recently. The story as to how and where the Bible was found is a story in itself.

The gentleman who donated the Bible found it in an old house in Shirley that was soon to be sold. Apparently, it would have been thrown away had he not inquired if he could have it. Being keenly interested in

history, he looked through it and discovered the name Goodrich and Lunenburg inscribed many times in the family record section that is commonly found in old Bibles. He contacted us, and arrangements were made to meet so we could accept it. This Bible belonged to Melora Goodrich, daughter of Joseph and Lucy (Longley) Goodrich.



What makes this such an important acquisition, is the genealogy of the family and the ties to Lunenburg. Joseph was the great-grandson of Philip Goodridge, (which would become Goodrich), one of the first settlers in Lunenburg and was the first person interred in South Cemetery, in 1728. Another connection is to the Bigelow family. Joseph's daughter Mary Jane married Charles Bigelow. They were Nancy Bigelow's great-grand parents. Nancy was a longtime member of the Society and contributed many, many hours of research into the houses and families in Lunenburg.



MELORA GOODRICH

Also of note: The same Joseph Goodrich, in 1825, built what is now the house at Stillman Farm. The land was in the Goodrich family for two hundred and four years, from 1721, when Philip Goodridge obtained the land in a grant from King George II, until 1925 when the farm was sold to Elmer Fish and it became part of Clover Hill Farm.

This is why family Bibles are so integral to our town's history. They contain names and dates that open the flood gates of additional history and genealogical records.

## FIRE!

Members recently received a new edition of the history of the Society. Appearing in it is a 1996 photograph of the Society's building, with a cupola and weathervane mounted on the roof. Where did they go? With thanks to Richard Brockelman, who took this photo, which tells the story.

A defective light switch at the top of the stairway to the attic caused a fire on July 11, 2008. It was quickly brought under control, with minimal damage to the building.



# DIGITIZING DOLLARS

Long time life member and supporter of the Society, Richard Letarte visited us Wednesday, July 21, with a specific purpose in mind. Most institutions such as ours digitize valuable documents, maps, photographs and other historic records. Small portions of our collections have been, or currently are being digitized. The first was Cunningham's History of Lunenburg, digitized several years ago by the Boston Public Library. Currently in process by the same institution, are a number of aerial photographs of Lunenburg, taken in the 1950's.

Rich and MaryEllen wish to assist us in covering the expense for expanding our digitization, and presented a check for \$1,000 to be used for that purpose. We are looking into the possibility of processing our extensive collection of maps to begin with. Thank you, Rich and MaryEllen, for your generous donation.

## Giving Back – To US!

We have some exciting news! Local store leadership at the Lunenburg Hannaford has selected the Lunenburg Historical Society as the beneficiary of a new program. The Historical Society will receive a \$1 donation for every *\$12.00 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet* purchased at the Lunenburg Hannaford in the month of September.



**GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY!**

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We will receive a \$1 donation for every \$12.00 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold at our selected Hannaford in our selected month.

Benefiting Organization:

**Lunenburg Historical Society**

Selected Month: **September**      Selected Hannaford: **Lunenburg**



## DUES

Just a reminder to a few members: We depend on your membership dues contributions to cover essential expenses to enable us to continue saving and sharing the history of Lunenburg.