

Newsletter

of

The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc.

10 School Street

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A New Appearance

Yes, it looks the same at first glance, but it is a new type font, expanded content, and contributions from staff members at your center for history in Lunenburg. Look for more photographs and regular features such as “Kurator’s Korner” by Jennifer Sanderson, “What’s New” by Bill Tyler, our acquisitions chair, and more detail of coming attractions and programs.

We begin by introducing you to our current board of directors:



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

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF OUR VOLUNTEER STAFF

Arline Franciosi, a resident of West Street is married to Donald, and is the mother of four children. She is a retired purchasing agent of Mohawk Wire in Leominster, now known as Mohawk Cable, of the Belden Companies.

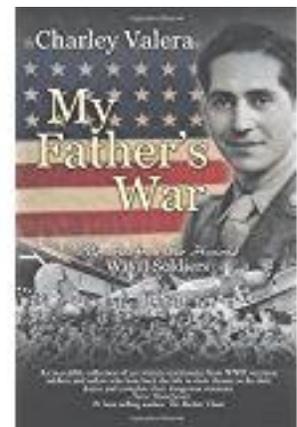


Ryan Stober hails from Pleasant Street and is married to Celeste. He is employed at Mack Prototype in Gardner as a prototype mold designer. He enjoys spending time with Celeste, their two Dobermans and riding motorcycles. He also enjoys farming. You will see him occasionally assisting with building and grounds maintenance and a bit of snow plowing.

PROGRAMS FOR THE COMING SEASON

(All are held at the Community Room of the Lunenburg Public Library at 7:00 p.m.)

APRIL 13: Come and hear flyer and author **Charley Valera** share stories of local World War II veterans obtained from personal interviews with more than a dozen remaining members of the “Greatest Generation,” as published in his book, “**My Father’s War.**” Several included are **Charles M. Sanderson, Joseph H. Chiminielo** and **Lauri K. Rautio**. We expect Mr. Sanderson to be present.



JUNE 8: Annual Meeting of the corporation. This portion of the meeting will include annual reports and the election of officers. It will be followed by our presenter, **Mark Bodanza**, of Leominster. Attorney, historian and well-known public speaker and author, Mark will be speaking about the abolitionist movement.

SEPTEMBER 7: Curator **Jennifer Sanderson** will lead us through Lunenburg’s participation in national historic events through the years, from the town’s origin in 1718, its incorporation in 1728, to today’s concerns of this former “bedroom” town’s future

NOVEMBER 2: **Eric M. Howe**, PhD will demonstrate how our own vintage electrostatic generator produces electrical power by simply turning a hand crank. It will be a sparkling and sparking program, including audience participation. It will also be a great educational opportunity for students who attend.

BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT UPDATES

We recently received a grant of \$13,360.00 from The **George R. Wallace Foundation**. This, in combination with a previous grant of \$5,000.00 from the **Arbella Insurance Foundation**, enabled replacement of the 1966-era windows and entrance doors during the week of February 27.

Replacement of the windows and doors culminates a building improvement program of the past two years. This included replacing the original furnace, installing new HVAC units, a garage door, installing rain gutters, repairing the roof over the vestibule and re-pointing the entrance stairs.

A new computer, equipped with specialized museum software will enable us to digitize records of each and every object and historic document and photograph in our collections. It will replace several manual methods formerly used. Here, **Chuck Venezia** enters data to record one of our artifacts.



Four book cases have been designed and fabricated by V.P. **Chuck Venezia**, to house our many volumes of books, binders and containers of research materials.

The nearly \$900 project was made possible by a donation from **the Lunenburg Memorial Fund** in memory of **Mary H. Padula**.

WHAT'S NEW at the LUNENBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By **Bill Tyler**, accessions committee chair

The Pratt Chairs of Lunenburg, Massachusetts



We are very fortunate to have two fine examples of this Lunenburg-made, Windsor-style chair in the Society's collection. **John Darby Pratt** was a chair maker in Lunenburg in the 1830's. He lived and worked at his property at the intersection of West Street and Pratt Street, which was no doubt named after him. His chairs featured seats formed from one piece of pine, and the chairs were usually painted black, green or mustard yellow. The chair backs were sometimes stenciled with red-orange colored pears.

CLOCK REPAIR

Our talented accessions chairman and research co-chair **Bill Tyler** can also repair clocks! This 1830's vintage tall case clock with movement made by Thomas Logan of Maybole, Scotland, has stood silent in our museum for decades, hands and chimes stilled, seemingly forever. But as Bill said, "Let me take it and work on it." Today, with a weekly winding, it accurately tells time and chimes the hour in pleasant tones. The clock was part of the John Duncan Brown estate's artifacts that originally comprised the core of the new museum. Thank you, Bill.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For over fifty years, since our building was constructed, we have been blessed with more than adequate parking facilities, thanks to the foresight of our town fathers in 1966. When the town deeded space to the Society to enable construction of our building, it is obvious that their intention was to allow parking in the spacious lot which is part of the primary school property.

We recently had our property surveyed, and made a startling discovery: we own only a narrow strip of the parking space at the front of our property, about six feet wide – hardly sufficient to park bicycles! This narrow strip is accessed by a twenty foot wide driveway from School Street.

It is our understanding that the board of selectmen or the building reuse committee have sent requests for proposals to potentially interested parties for the sale of several town properties, including the old primary school, including the parking lot. Recognizing the potential loss of all parking spaces if the school property is sold, we have asked the town for, at least, an easement for a portion of the parking lot. No action has been taken on our request, originally presented at the board of selectmen's meeting October 3, 2016.

Assuming the sale, how indeed, are valuable old town documents, maps, warrants, photographs and artifacts going to be accessible to town officials, members and the public in a building accessible only by walking?

C. William Lakso

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

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 _____