



Newsletter



Historical Society Vice President Jane Lowell talks to Peter Hawkes owner of Greener Acres Dairy Farm in Mendon that was started as a 4H Project by Peter in 1973.

Below visitors enjoy coffee and refreshments around the fireplace.



December Open House brings new stories about Mendon

On December 14th and 15th the Mendon Historical Society opened its doors for the first time to the public. The soft opening at our new location, 15 Hastings Street, highlighted four aspects of the history of Mendon. Exhibits included Southwick's Zoo, the Dairy Industry in Mendon, the Life and Work of Artist Doris Daniels Cox and ladies Fashion and Lifestyle.

The exhibits were made possible through the help of many volunteers. Justine Brewer brought to light the history of Southwick's Zoo in Mendon. Her display included old photographs and memorabilia as well as a 1934 Going Away Outfit of Clarice Daniels Southwick - Founder of Southwick's Zoo.

Carleton Cox made the long trip from Pennsylvania to display several of his mother's paintings for the open house. In addition he generously donated prints and note card sets to the Museum. All proceeds of the sale of these items will be donated to the society. Carleton prepared a written history of Doris' career as an artist and the contributions she made in establishing the Blackstone Valley Art Association.

Members of the society worked to collect artifacts and stories on the history of the Dairy Industry in Mendon. On display were bottles, photographs, documents and tools associated with the production of milk products. A map of the local dairies was created as well. Many visitors came with stories of what they remember of the local dairies and farmers in Mendon. Patrice Doucette donated several dairy related items to the museum and shared the research done by her late husband Paul Doucette who was an avid collector of milk bottles and history in general. David Lowell donated the ice cream flavors sign from Lowell's Dairy.

Sue Ober and Arlene Reed spent countless hours preparing the Parlor Room to display artifacts in the collection relating to ladies fashion and lifestyles. Spanning over two hundred years the items in this collection tell the story of women in the community and their differing roles and skills. A 325th Anniversary quilt was displayed in the parlor room featuring the stitched signatures of many prominent Mendon residents including familiar names like Clough, Thayer, Wood, Taft, Davenport, Lowell and many more!

The two-day opening brought in many people who shared new stories and memories of growing up in Mendon. It is the hope of the society that we can continue to build on these stories and document them for future generations to enjoy. We are thankful for all those who attended and hope you will visit again soon.



2019 Historical Society Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership now is the time to do so. The 2019 Membership application is available on our website. You can also contact us by email or by phone at 508-488-9620.

We are pleased to offer the same membership fees as last year. Individual \$10, Family \$15 and students and members over the age of 80 are free. If your membership is free we still need you to fill out an application for our records. Please contact us if you need any assistance. - Thank you for your continued support!



Quilt Raffle Drawing on February 14th

Last Chance to get your tickets!

This beautiful quilt created by Historical Society Vice President Jane Lowell has been generously donated to the society to raise funds for the organization.

The quilt is currently on display at the museum. Raffle tickets are still available but time is running out to enter to win this beautiful piece. For tickets you can contact the Historical Society at (508) 488-9620 or by email at Mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

New Museum Hours Announced

Tuesdays 11-3 & Sundays 12-4

Come in and explore our artifacts and displays, read up on the history of the community or relax and enjoy a cup of coffee and stories with our knowledgeable staff. During the winter months, visitors should call ahead to make sure we are open. The number is 508-488-9620. If the public schools are closed we will be as well.

2019 Programs

Farm Girl on the Front Lines: the story of Massachusetts Heroine Deborah Sampson.

March 19, 2019 7pm Mendon Unitarian Church 13 Maple Street Mendon, MA

Janet Parnes, known as "Lady J" Presents:

"Farm Girl on the Front Lines: the story of Massachusetts Heroine Deborah Sampson." Lady J takes the audience into the life of this young orphan girl who was able to disguise herself and serve as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. This program is supported by a grant from the Mendon Cultural Council.



Deborah Sampson Gannett Image courtesy of Digital Commonwealth - Monument Rock Ridge Cemetery Sharon, MA.

Mothers Day Tea at the Museum



May 11, 2019

Join us for a sampling of tea, finger sandwiches, confections and entertainment as we bring back our "ladies tea". Space is limited so make your reservations early. Most suitable for ages 10 and up.

Mendon - The Great Depression, WWII and the post war era to 1967. *Date to be announced*

June, 2019 - John Trainor and Dick Grady
The much anticipated next chapter of the History of Mendon series resumes in June as town historians Dick Grady and John Trainor take us on a journey of Mendon during the Great Depression, WW II and the post war years to 1967.

Published by the

Mendon Historical Society

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OFFICERS

President:

Kathy Schofield

Vice Presidents:

Jane Lowell and Amy DeWitt

Secretary:

Ruth Cassinelli

Collection Administrators:

Lisa Lepore and Patrice Doucette

Treasurer:

Rich Schofield

UPCOMING
FUNDRAISERS*Save the Date*

*Mothers Day Tea Saturday May
11, 2019*

*Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to
experience Victorian high tea in high style!
Dad's are invited too.*

*Aromatic teas with other refreshments, delightful
finger sandwiches and an array of tempting
desserts are just the beginning of this special event!
Stay Tuned for more details*

Town Wide Yard Sale – June 8

The Mendon Historical Society is looking for donations of quality items for the annual town wide yard sale. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a donation and help us raise funds for restoration projects. Contact the society at 508-488-9620 or by email

Mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Partnering with the Mendon and Upton Public Schools to bring History to Life

Members of the Mendon Historical Society and the Historical Commission have been invited to participate in the Community Partnership Project with faculty and staff at Nipmuc Regional High School.

This program is designed to bring in real life learning experiences to the student population. By partnering with community organizations the students have the opportunity to see how their education is relevant in the real world.

We are excited to have this chance to share ideas with students and find opportunities for them to make a direct impact in their community. Several ideas are being considered including the development of a historic walking tour of the village center. We are working to collect artifacts and documents to share with the students that reflect the time period they are studying in the US History curriculum. In addition we are looking at the possibility of setting up a show at the museum of historical research done by the students.

This is a great opportunity to share the work that we do and spark interest with our students who can make important contributions to sharing and preserving the history of our community.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Museum

Now that our doors are open and most of the artifacts have made the trip to the new museum at 15 Hastings Street we are looking for volunteers interested in a host of different projects we would like to start working on.

Below is a list of work that we would like to schedule volunteers for:

- Covering Open Hours at the Museum
- Data entry
- Converting content of documents into word documents
- Photographic Record of Pitcher Collection
- Cleaning, organizing and setting up the kitchen at the museum

In addition there are several fundraiser volunteer opportunities available including:

- Mothers Day Tea
- June Town Wide Yard Sale
- Holiday House Tour
- Baking for scheduled Presentations
- Halloween Pumpkin Stroll

Please call us at 508-488-9620 or email at Mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out with any of these events.

The Mendon Historical Society would like to thank:

- Carleton Cox who donated prints and note cards of his mother's paintings to the society. These beautiful card sets and prints depicting scenes of Mendon, Boston, Veteran Images, Floral Still Life and Animals are available for sale in the museum.
- Patrice Doucette who donated Mendon Dairy Bottles to the museum collection
- David Lowell who donated the Lowell's Dairy sign to the museum collection

**Thank you to our new
2019 Individual
Sponsor:**

Adam Frost Mendon Motors

Mendon Historical Society

15 Hastings Street

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