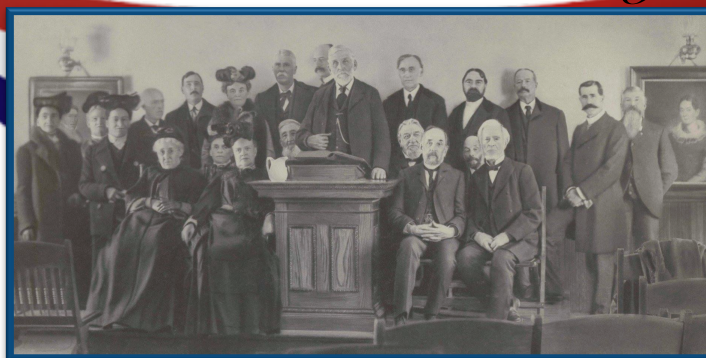


Spring 2021



Mendon Historical Society Newsletter

*Happy 125th Birthday
Mendon Historical Society*



Under the direction of Marcus Aldrich and other prominent community members the Mendon Historical Society was first established in 1896. Meeting on a snowy day in February representatives gathered from Mendon's original territory including the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Millville, Hopedale, Milford, Northbridge, Uxbridge and Upton until they eventually moved to form their own organizations in later years.

This year the Mendon Historical Society celebrates its 125th Birthday. We continue to operate as a private, all volunteer, not for profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our town's rich history. The work of our tireless volunteers and the continued support of our members, benefactors and friends have helped to keep our history and mission relevant. To all of our supporters we would like to share a special Thank You.

Covid restrictions limit our ability to celebrate this event together but we hope to find a way to mark this moment in a memorable way some time in the future.

Mendon Historical Society Accepts Gift of the Taft Monument from the Taft Family Association.

The monument marking the original homestead site of the Taft Family from whom President Taft descended is now under the care and keeping of the Mendon Historical Society. The Taft Family Association gifted the monument located beside 40 Millville Street to the historical society earlier this year. The society was not quite prepared for the process of taking ownership which involved many legal obstacles but the acquisition is complete and now the society's property. It is quite an honor to hold such a significant historical monument and we would be remiss not to thank Richard Schofield and Attorney John Hickey from Franklin who donated their time and resources to research the ownership and transition process in order for us to accept this gift. The site where the monument is located has been wonderfully maintained for many years by David Lowell and to him we extend our gratitude.

*The Monument Marking the 1679 Homesite of
Robert and Sarah Taft located beside 40 Millville
Street*



Kick-Off Yard Sale June 12th



We are pleased to announce we are fired up and ready to start with our Yard Sale scheduled June 12th at the museum located at 15 Hastings Street. The rain date will be June 19th. We hope you will start setting aside items in good condition while spring cleaning and consider donating them to our fundraiser. Items can be dropped off at the museum. Drop off dates: April 24th and May 15 from noon to 3PM. In case you are unable to take advantage of those dates contact us at 508-488-9620 or by email at mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com and we can make special arrangements.

If you are interested we are always looking for volunteers to help before with pricing and selling on the day of the event. Thank you!

Yard Clean Up and Yard Sale Prep May 15th Rain date May 22nd

Volunteers are need to help us get our grounds ready for visitors. On Saturday May 15th we will be pruning, mowing and light raking at the Museum. We have started a sign- up sheet so we know we have plenty of people on hand to help.

We will begin at 10am and hope to be done by 1pm.

Refreshments will be provided.

The society has some tools available but we suggest you bring along you own tools and make sure your name is on them.

For those who are unable to do strenuous labor we will set up a group of volunteers with tables and chairs to price items collected for the yard sale. As always, your help is greatly appreciated.

To sign up call us at 508-488-9620 or by email at mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Recipes from the Past:

A Keepsake Community Cookbook

Society members Norma Phipps Allard and Ruth Hoisington O'Grady have compiled a collection of classic recipes that were offered in three different cookbooks from the 1950's. The original cookbooks were created by members of the Mendon Unitarian Church, the Mendon Baptist Church and Saint Michaels Catholic Church. In addition to the recipes some of the original advertising has been included. Norma and Ruth have also shared memories of the people who contributed to the original cookbooks. This cookbook is a trip down memory lane and a reflection of our community when dinner was always on the stove and church suppers were an important part of our social fabric. Cookbooks are \$12.00 and available through the Mendon Historical Society by email mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or by phone at (508) 488-9620.



Back By Popular
Demand!

Photo Contest - Fundraiser

You don't have to be a professional photographer to enter! Kathy Schofield of the Mendon Historical Society is searching for photos of the town to put on a Town Postcard. It will feature up to four town scenes. Designed and donated by Christin's Gallery and professionally printed. They will be made available for sale as a fundraiser to help with our expenses. You are encouraged to send in your favorite pictures. Email entries as a jpg-file in a high resolution of at least 300dpi to ChristinsGallery@gmail.com.

Please include your name and date of the photo.

Deadline April 15, 2021



Focus on Fundraising and Volunteers in 2021

As we all reflect on the past years challenges we are most grateful to our members and supporters who helped us tow the funding line while all of our fundraising efforts were shut down. Admittedly we have some ground to make up in order to get back on our feet and we hope new opportunities will present themselves. We are always open to suggestions so if you have an idea please share it with us!

Volunteers Needed:

As with any great endeavor, we are in search of volunteers and friends to assist us in our mission. If you can spare a few hours of your time please let us know and we will match your talents to some of our current projects.

We have ongoing projects that require Filing, Scanning, Sorting and Labeling, Yard Work, Research, Typing information into Word Documents, Reading and Summarizing Documents, Light Housekeeping and Museum Maintenance.

Contact Us At:

Mendon Historical Society PO Box 196
15 Hastings Street, Mendon MA 01756
(508) 488-9620

Mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Facebook: Mendon Historical Society @ Mendon History

Building Progress

We continue to make improvements to the museum building. During our Annual Fundraiser in 2019 we set a goal to replace an aged and leaking roof on the main building as well as the back garage which once housed one of Mendon's original fire trucks. We are pleased to let our supporters and members know we did replace the roof on the entire building and preparing to install Nest thermometers.

Repairs to the back porch were done and the side porch is a work in progress. We continue to evaluate the drainage issues that have plagued the side yard and we are systematically making amendments to alleviate the problem.

We are finalizing a handicapped ramp design for the rear entrance. We expect the cost of construction and material to total approximately \$1000. With the society now in its second year of limited fundraising our operating budget is stretched to its limit. We are anxious to perform more building repairs but have put most on hold for the time being.

Remembering Our Friends

This has been a difficult year for so many not just here but around the world. We would like to remember those who have been part of our community and those we had the honor of calling friend

Margaret Carroll
Alison Franks
Sharon Cutler
Herbie Wood
Dick Joiner
Geneva Dudley

Museum Donations and Acquisitions

A.J. Byrne Nipmuc High School yearbooks

Trudy LeClaire Palmer crocheted & lace collars, dresses made by her mother Gertude for Mendon's anniversary celebration, anniversary pins and bracelet.

David Lowell Framed photo of Geneva Dudley's relative, photo album 60th wedding anniversary of Frank and Florence Aldrich, photo album celebrating Henry Clough's 25 years with Mendon schools.

Beverly Harding Mendon related news articles, photo of Walter Beale's milk wagon, copy of her father's WW1 enlistment & discharge records.

Rufin Van Bossuyt Miscoe Springs Bottle

A Special Thanks to the Voters of Mendon

At the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2020 voters approved the use of CPA funds to purchase archival quality photo sleeves and sheet protectors for a large collection of historic photographs and documents from the museum collection. This May voters will be asked to appropriate 5 thousand dollars to restore and preserve documents from the late 1700's including infantry orders from the Revolutionary War. We hope to preserve this extraordinary collection of rare documents for future generations. We hope you will vote to help preserve these historical treasures.

*Vote with Us at the Annual Town Meeting
Saturday May 8th
10AM Miscoe Hill Field*

The Mendon Historical Society Statement of Intent

The first public meeting of the Mendon Historical Society was held on Tuesday, February 18, 1896 at the Mendon Town Hall. Its' purpose is to:

- Encourage and promote historical research
- Preserve for future generations, documents and artifacts pertaining to Mendon and those towns which were once a part of Mendon
- To display these documents and artifacts in our museum
- To tell the stories about the displays

The Society continues to provide free historical research and genealogical assistance to family members both in town and beyond.

We have operated independently on donations and a small trust. With those funds we continue to host informational and historical programs that are open to the public and free of charge.

Mendon Historical Society

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OFFICERS

President: Jane Lowell

Vice Presidents: Amy DeWitt, Joe Bibeault

Secretary: Ruth Cassinelli

Collection Administrators: Lisa Lepore and Patrice Doucette

Treasurer: Rich Schofield

MUSEUM HOURS:

We are following the State of Massachusetts Guidelines. We do not have a scheduled time to re-open but expect to do so soon. We hope to set up visits by appointment after May 30th. Please call if you would like to arrange a visit at 508-488-9620. Please understand we will continue to follow state guidelines so the May 30th date may change.

Mendon Historical Society

15 Hastings Street P.O. Box 196
Mendon, MA 01756