

April-June 2009



THE GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From the President

Dear Fellow Member of the Georgetown Historical Society,

In my first year as President of the Georgetown Historical Society, I embark on a mission shared with a highly devoted board. Past members have made great progress under the guidance of President Terry Hart, further enhancing our museum, its lively programs and active membership. We hope others will continue to help move our Society forward as has been done by active members including devoted volunteers such as Joe and Bev Knapp who have dedicated long hours on items ranging from school and community programs to the less glamorous but vital Treasurer's reports. Ed DesJardins has done a fine job assisting with architectural and design skills. Curator Steve Keene, has created an inventory of the Society's collection of furnishings, objects, photos and manuscripts. Secretary Sylvia West does a great job recording our meetings.

Recent improvements include the new fence around the front yard of Brocklebank House, the reproduction "White Horse" Tavern sign showing General Wolfe, and new paths with an accessible entrance to the museum. The schoolhouse has been painted and we have plans for repairs in progress at Brocklebank House including a new cedar shingle roof, repairs to sidewalls, and paint. A minor masonry project will close a rodent access entry, but more foundation repair will be needed in the future. Other CPC-funded projects are in the planning stage for the School House window conservation, and for the Shoe Shop's much-needed repairs.

This Spring, we embark on a new year with our March program when we expect longtime-resident Homer Tapin to give a talk on Old Georgetown School Days. As a preservation planner and historical architect, I have studied one-room school houses of the period of our Hill School No. 3, and can provide some further entertainment with a slideshow on the history of Massachusetts one-room school houses. This past Fall we had an opportunity to hear about the "ancient artifacts" we have in our Society's Collection. These native American artifacts are being catalogued and display cases are being set up for exhibition in the Georgetown Public Library. There will join cases being custom-made to house military items, muskets, swords, pistols and accoutrements. We hope to have Tom Mahlstedt, DCR archaeologist, and Georgetown Historical Commission member describe the new artifact display to us in the Fall.

In the newly-printed newsletter you will find the list of 2009 Officers and Directors, as well as a request for volunteers to assist with the various worthy tasks of the Historical Society. The organization's success is dependent upon the efforts of its members. We welcome your contributions, suggestions and comments so that we may steer the Society in the directions desired by the community.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Thank you for being an interested and active member of the Georgetown community and the Georgetown Historical Society.

Frederic C. (Rick) Detwiller
President

Curators Corner

Concerning the items in our Collection - Thoughts and Needs

Historic New England declares: “We serve the public by preserving and presenting New England’s heritage.” There is a larger scale version of our mission: an ambition to serve our public by preserving and presenting the heritage of Georgetown.

One third of the 3,400 items in our Collections Database are reasonably well cataloged. They are well described and have a designated location within the public areas or designated storage areas of the museum.

My focus is to deliver a plea for volunteer assistance transporting most of the remainder of items from the museum to the Society’s “office” (at Arthur Rauseo’s building). There, cartons, mostly marked only by year of donation, will be dissected. The items in each box will be arranged, photographed, their records amended and locations assigned and they will be cataloged. We’ll probably double or triple the total of individual items cataloged.

Please give serious thought about helping somehow.

Stimulus funds won’t be available, but then money is not the answer. Volunteers can do this job. Increasing the extent to which our collections and internal archives are under decent control and placed in broadly accessible form, and published will give those who participate in this project the lion’s share of the credit and a profound sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

For those preferring to volunteer help “at home” the Society’s minutes need scanning, and several years of minutes in manuscript form require transcription.

Care to join in? - questions? - greater detail? mail to: plumviewer.eos@verizon.net

Steve Keene

Did You Know?

There is an interesting story behind the 1754 “General Wolfe Tavern” sign, a replica of which adorns the outside of the Brocklebank museum. James Wolfe, a British General gained considerable popularity during the French and Indian War and was mortally wounded in battle in 1759. So popular he was that the owner of the Tavern that occupied the museum building then, renamed his Tavern to the “General Wolfe Tavern”. His contributions were apparently forgotten when during the War of the Revolution, American militiamen purportedly fired their muskets at the hero General’s image. (The Tavern was summarily renamed the White Horse Tavern to improve business.) Come see the original sign on your next visit to the Museum and learn more about its interesting history!



Museum Information

Schedule of Museum and School House Visits:

The 2009 Brocklebank Museum hours are the 2nd and 4th Sundays, 2-5 p.m from July 13 through October 11. **To arrange Special Tours** call 978 352 8526.

Do you have your own stories or suggestions? We would love to hear from you! You can email us at info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com or mail us at:

Georgetown Historical Society, P.O. Box 376, Georgetown, MA. 01833.



Other items of interest

- You might be interested to view the brand new display of 15 Civil War Rifles now at the Peabody Library.
- JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP! Search Groups, “Georgetown Historical Society”.
- VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com to see more information about GHS and upcoming events.

Calendar of Events

March 18, 2009, 7pm, Peabody Library Meeting Room: "Schools As I Remember Them", a talk given by Homer Tapin, 93 yrs. old, and a lifelong resident of Georgetown. He will tell us how it was at school when life was much simpler and how the teachers instilled in the students a desire to learn and be educated.

May 20, 2009, 7pm, Peabody Library Meeting Room: “Early Trolleys of Georgetown”, Arthur Paquette.

June 2009, 1pm, Ball Field 51 North St, Georgetown: Old Fashioned Baseball - an exhibition game between two teams using the rules of 1861.

Fall 2009: *Georgetown Days.*

September 16, 2009—7pm—Peabody Library Meeting Room: Tom Mahlstedt.

September 18-20 & 25-27, 2009—Trails & Sails: Great events all over historic Essex County. Go to www.essexheritage.org/ts/index.shtml for more info.

December 2, 2009—7pm—Peabody Library Meeting Room: Annual Meeting.

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 2

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Georgetown, MA 01833

P.O. Box 376

The Georgetown Historical Society

Permit
Number

Georgetown Historical Society

Officers

President: Frederic Detwiller
1st V. Pres: Terrance Hart
2nd V. Pres: Beverly Knapp
Secretary: Sylvia West
Treasurer: Joe Knapp (Acting)
Curator: Stephen Keene

Board of Directors

Ralph Chouinard
Joe Knapp
Ed Des Jardins
Charles Keilty
Barry Cranford

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Email: info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com

We would like to include you on our GHS email list to keep you up to date on future events. Please go to Georgetownhistoricalsociety.com and click on the "Join our Mailing List" link

