

THE GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Preserving and promoting the history of Georgetown

Summer 2015 Newsletter

Ahh, summer: a great time to relax, sip an ice-cold lemonade and reminisce about the happy summers of our childhoods. For many of us, those happy memories include time spent at camp. Georgetown has been a summer destination for many children over the years. In this issue, we take a look at some of the past and present camps of Georgetown.

CAMP LESLIE



In 1919, Perley Leslie, owner of the Leslie Dry Goods Store in Haverhill, purchased land on Pentucket Pond from the Porter-Milton Ice Company. It became known as Leslie's Grove, and was used as a retreat and recreation area for his employees. Following Mr. Leslie's death, his widow, Annie Leslie, sold the property in 1939 to the Camp Trustees, who deeded it to the Essex County 4-H Club Camp in 1940. Camp Leslie has been in operation since 1939, and is a day and overnight camp for children aged 7-14. Membership in 4-H is not required.

The camp is rich in tradition. New campers are assigned to a "tribe," either Naumkeag or Tahattawan, and remain a member of that tribe for life. Friendly competitions are held throughout the week, and the tribe with the most points at the end of the week has the honor of seeing their tribal sign hung on the totem pole. The week culminates in a campfire ceremony attended by campers and their families, where the four H (head, hand, heart and health) and Spirit awards are given out, and they hear the moving Native American story of the Fire Bringer.

In 2007, Hollywood came to Camp Leslie, where a scene from the movie "The Women" was filmed.

Photos: Camp Leslie lodge and totem pole, 1969, courtesy of GHS President Christine (Smart) Comiskey, who, by the way, is a Naumkeag.



CAMP DENISON

Denison House, established in 1892 in Boston, was a charitable organization dedicated to providing social services and education to the urban poor. In 1935, they purchased 35.4 acres of land on Baldpate Pond in Georgetown and Boxford for use as a summer camp to give disadvantaged and disabled inner city children a chance to get out of the city and enjoy nature. The lodge and other structures were built by Georgetown's Alfred E. Tidd Builders. After the camp closed in the 1990s, it was purchased by the Town of Georgetown in 1998, with the assistance of a "Self-Help" grant, for use as a conservation area. It is now a popular hiking and picnic area used by many residents, and can be rented for special occasions. It is also used once again as a camp, with many local children attending the "Workshop in the Woods" day camp each summer.



The lodge at Camp Denison

Of historical interest are two old foundations, one an apparent barn, the other believed to be the cellar hole of the home of Daniel Perkins, who inherited the property from his grandfather, Nathaniel Perkins, in 1773 and built a house there soon after. He sold it in 1790 to Asa Nelson, and it remained in the Nelson family for over one hundred years.

OTHER CAMPS

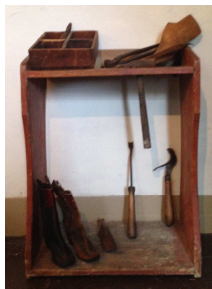
Thanks to Charles Flanders, we have a record of a few other camps that rented property in Georgetown. The following is from *The Georgetown Weekly* newspaper of August 19, 1982:

“On the Lake Avenue side of Pentucket Pond was Camp Kenoza, run by Isabel Currier, which ran from 1931 to 1940. This camp was located in an area between the former blind girls' camp and the Watermark. They had their private swimming place near what is now Burt Dresser's camp, and had a raft. Camp Wobesa was a Boy Scout camp for the Lynn region and was located on the north side of the Hemeon ice houses on land now covered by Robert Drive, part of Bartlett Drive and Flint Avenue. It also had a raft, several boats, swimming area and a pier.”

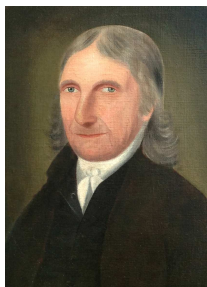
CURATOR'S CORNER By Karen Brockelbank

Now that the museum is open for the summer, we are pleased and proud to announce the acquisition of several new and exciting artifacts – pieces of Georgetown's history on display for the very first time during our 2015 season.

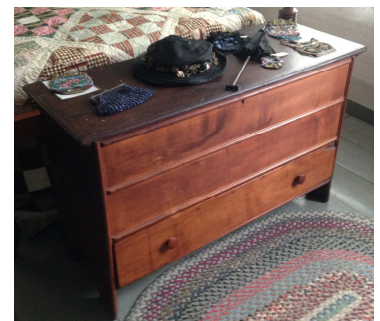
The first is the wedding gown and gloves worn by Harriette Stetson when she married James Poole on June 23, 1920. This wedding gown, donated by Harriette's granddaughter and Georgetown native Jean Jovell, is in near perfect condition. Ivory silk, hand-embroidered with roses by the bride and her sisters, this dress is the latest in our collection of wedding gowns on display at the museum. The Stetson family, descendants of Captain Samuel Brocklebank, was extraordinarily supportive of the Georgetown Historical Society – a tradition that lives on in their descendants. Thank you, Jean Jovell, for this lovely contribution to the museum!



The second acquisition, a “cordwainer's shoe bench” comes from Leon Morse, descendant of Colonius Morse, “The Lamplighter of Georgetown.” This particular kind of bench was used by shoemakers that travelled from town to town. When Colonius was only eight years old he and his family arrived in Georgetown to continue the family business of shoe-making. This shoe bench was used by Colonius and his father and grandfather before him. A special thank you goes out to Leon Morse for loaning this piece of history to the Georgetown Historical Society.



The remaining two items were donated by Margie Keene. One is an early 1700s blanket chest from the Charles Chaplin estate – most likely created by one of the Chaplins themselves. This historic piece is very well made, and in excellent condition. The final item is a portrait of Daniel Tenney, who was born in Rowley in 1721 and married Rebecca Dickinson in 1742. Several years after their children Miriam and Simon were born, the Tenneys relocated to Sutton, MA where Daniel Tenney continued to build his landowning enterprises. The Tenney family is an important part of Georgetown's history. This portrait is dated 1805, when Daniel Tenney was 84 years old.



A very special thank you is extended to Margie for donating these items.

BROCKLEBANK MUSEUM OPEN FOR THE SEASON

The Brocklebank Museum is now open for the season and will open every Sunday through Columbus Day weekend from 2-5 PM and other days and times by appointment. Come check out our newest acquisitions and our *Early Businesses of Georgetown* exhibit. Admission is always free to current GHS members.



PENN BROOK SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS TOUR MUSEUM



What better way to open the museum for the season than by welcoming one hundred third-graders and their teachers to the Brocklebank Museum and one-room schoolhouse for their annual field trip. We're not sure who has more fun, the kids or the tour guides!

Left: Tour guides Starr Anderson, Beverly Knapp, Rick Detwiller and Ed Des Jardins await the kids' arrival.
Right: Starr Anderson describes what it was like attending school in a one-room schoolhouse.

BE A TOUR GUIDE - GET A FREE ENHA PASS!

If you are interested in local history and enjoy meeting and talking to people, you should consider joining our Brocklebank Museum tour-guiding team! It is a fun and easy job—no memorization or wearing of costumes is required. You get to choose the Sundays you wish to work. This is also a great opportunity for high school students looking to earn Community Service credits. As an added incentive, **anyone who volunteers at least 10 hours with GHS this year will receive an Essex National Heritage Area Volunteer Reciprocal Pass.** This enables you to get into over 60 Essex County historic sites, including such popular venues as the Crane Estate, the House of Seven Gables, and the Peabody Essex Museum, absolutely **FREE!** If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Georgetown Historical Society President Chris Comiskey at 978-352-7364 or e-mail her at: info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com.



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

ENTER TO WIN A BRAND NEW iPad AIR 2!

GHS is raffling off an iPad Air 2 with 64GB, wi-fi and cellular capabilities. Raffle tickets will be sold at the museum throughout the 2015 season and at all GHS events through October. The drawing will be on November 1, 2015. All new GHS members joining in 2015 will automatically receive a free entry into the raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following people who have joined our membership in the past few months: Berwyn and Virginia Andrus, Patricia Barton and Frank Picariello, William Tyrie, and Steve Spaulding.

HOMER TAPIN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Homer Tapin Memorial Scholarship is Alexander Dunton. The Homer Tapin Memorial Scholarship is presented each year to a GMHS senior who will be majoring in a history-related field. Alexander will be attending UMaine Orono in the fall majoring in anthropology. We wish him all the best for a bright future.

ANTIQUES TREASURE HUNT FUNDRAISER



We had a great turn-out for our Antiques Treasure Hunt fundraiser on June 18. Appraiser Dan Meader from John McInnis Auctioneers entertained and educated the crowd with his vast knowledge of antiques. A few of our guests were very pleased to learn that their heirlooms were worth thousands of dollars, while others were somewhat disappointed that their special items were not as valuable as they had hoped. Thank you to Dan for doing such a great job, and to the Knights of Columbus for allowing us to use their building.

ATTENTION GENEALOGISTS!

The Merrimack Valley Chapter of The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists will be holding their monthly meetings at the Georgetown Library beginning in September. On Saturday, September 26 from 10 - 12:30, learn about "Making Old Photos Look New." The meeting is free and open to the public. Check our Georgetown Historical Society facebook group page for more information in September.



THANK YOU to all GHS members and friends who are designating GHS as their charity of choice when purchasing items online through Amazon Smile. Like any non-profit, GHS is sustained by the generosity of its members and contributors. So when you purchase online at Amazon, consider going instead to their charity link, smile.amazon.com, and choosing "Georgetown Historical Society" as your supported charity. Check out: <http://smile.amazon.com/> for more information on their program.

2015 DUES REMINDER

We still have a few members who have not yet renewed their GHS membership for 2015. If you have not yet renewed your membership, we hope you will do so very soon. All annual memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. A membership form is included with this newsletter for your convenience, or you can pay online by visiting our website, www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com and clicking on "Join the Society."





Georgetown Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 376, Georgetown, MA 01833

Membership Form

Name(s) included in membership _____

Address _____

Phone number (optional) _____

E-mail _____

I would like to help GHS “Go green” *and* save money.

Please send newsletter by e-mail. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Membership Levels:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 | BENEFACTOR(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 | LIFE (One-time payment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | SUSTAINER(S) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 | CONTRIBUTOR(S) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30 | MEMBER(S) | | |

*Your membership contribution is tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to:
Georgetown Historical Society.*

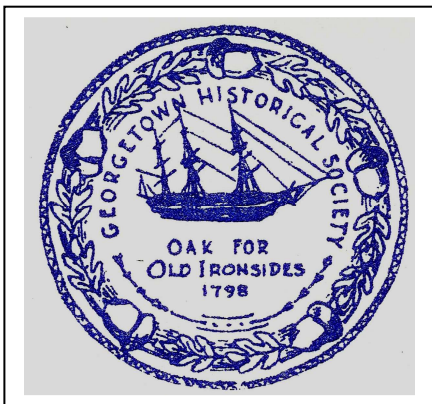
Optional: I would like to help as a GHS volunteer (check area(s) of interest)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum tour guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/Merchandise sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special events | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |



Georgetown Historical Society
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Georgetown Historical Society



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