

# GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Preserving and promoting the history of Georgetown*



## A Note From The President

I cannot believe we are already closing and winterizing the Brocklebank museum. My, how time flies! As we prepared to open the museum to the public in July, we were not quite sure what that would look like. I am happy to report we had a very consistent season, as we were open every Sunday afternoon, except for the Sunday we closed for the hurricane that wasn't. We also did two private tours for families with Georgetown connections. Both were enjoyed by all. It was very encouraging to get back to normal. Over the winter months we will be working on events for next year. If you have any ideas, please let us know.



On August 28th we hosted Sarah Guerin from Saboteuse in Wakefield MA. Sarah is a custom cowboy boot maker, and she spent the afternoon walking us through the process of hand making custom boots. Sarah also showed us the tools used, which have not changed for the most part in over two hundred years. Thank you to the Georgetown Cultural Council for funding Sarah's presentation. Thank you also to the CPC for funding the new roof and structural repairs to the shoe shop. And especially, thank you to Jim Boynton, who worked many hours on rebuilding the shop's windows, clearing out the inside, and cleaning the tools. The shoe shop is now an integral part of our Brocklebank Museum tour. *Continued on pg 2*

*Autumn 2021 Newsletter*

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## GHS Officers

President:	Betsy Moran
1st Vice President:	Sylvia Johnston
2nd Vice President:	Rick Detwiller
Treasurer:	Michelle Wilkins Cook
Secretary:	Lew Harrold
Curator:	Karen Brockelbank

## Board of Directors:

Jeff Lamoureaux	Mary Saunders
Chris DiFranco	



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I hope you have all noticed that our gardens continue to grow and flourish. This year our newest addition was the Victorian garden just inside the fence to the left of the front door. Over the winter months the garden committee, our “intrepid gardeners” will take stock in what was planted, what worked, what didn’t and develop our plans for the 2022 growing season. We hope to expand the gardens this fall or next spring. I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of you who donated plant material.



Volunteers at Trails & Sails 2021

**Trails and Sails 2021** We had approximately 80 visitors over the two Sundays of September 19th and the 26th - wow! I would especially like to thank my fellow Board members and Society volunteers who were there to welcome our guests. A special thank you to our student volunteers, Mackenzie DiFranco, Tara Stevens, and Josue Perez for your time. It was a delight to be able to open the museum, shoe shop and schoolhouse as well as give tours of our gardens to so many people.

Please feel free to let us know of any recommendations or concerns you have regarding the museum, the gardens, or the Society. As always, we value the support of all of you, our members.

If you have the time and would like to volunteer, we welcome your participation!

*Betsy Moran*

## Salem Five Bank



Salem Five Bank representatives accepting GHS donations

On Aug. 13 representatives from the Salem Five Bank, including the bank historian, were at the Brocklebank Museum to meet with Lew Harrold and Darlene Dupre to accept 20 large ledgers and a heavy brass plaque that are part of the history of the Georgetown Savings Bank, now Salem Five. They were particularly excited about the 1826 volumes which included the bank’s opening shareholders and bank transactions, dated July 4, 1826. They even recognized some of the names. GHS was pleased to have these items go where they will be stored under proper archival conditions. Betsy Moran and Sylvia Johnston who brought them down from the Brocklebank second floor say that they are very heavy.

## Our Archives

On July 12, Irene Gates, one of the Roving Archivists for the State of Massachusetts sent her report detailing what she had learned from her visit with several members of the Society on June 22. The visit and report were funded by a grant. In the report she praised the extent and breadth of the GHS collection and made specific recommendations regarding how we go forward digitally documenting and preserving the collection. Besides touring the museum and office, she was

shown the local history room at the Georgetown Peabody Library.

In keeping with her recommendations and our own research, GHS has purchased a reconditioned laptop computer, set up a network for data entry, and purchased the museum standard Past Perfect cataloging program. Lew Harrold is setting up the system for archival data entry so that volunteers and perhaps an intern can digitize the information about the collection thereby extending the work begun by former curator, Steve Keene. GHS is also looking into the means to preserve the paper and textile holdings that are degrading under present storage conditions. Once the system is up and running and procedures are in place, GHS will be looking for volunteers.

## Museum

As Betsy pointed out in her letter, The Brocklebank Museum was open this summer. Hurrah! Between visitors, volunteers worked at cleaning, evaluating, and rearranging items in the rooms. For instance, some curtains found in the curator's office are now hanging in the parlor along with the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Mighill on the mantle. The ell is straightened and has some room for items to be brought down from the overcrowded attic and evaluated.

## Membership Report

As the 2021 membership year winds down, we can report that we have 87 members and 44 life members. This is similar to previous years, but the good news is that we have increased the number of active volunteers in the society and forged a connection with both the High School and the Library. We would be delighted if you could join us in making the Georgetown Historical Society a vibrant part of our community.

## Garden

As you know, we have had rain and more rain this summer. Have you seen the abundant growth in our raised bed gardens? We would have had more success if we weren't also feeding some of the local wildlife. The corn, squash, and beans, for instance, were very popular with deer and rabbits. A woodchuck was caught eating the elderberries.

The apple and pear trees put on several feet of growth. We are now clearing behind them to make room for blueberries.

Have you seen the Victorian Garden in front of the parlor? Here we are striving for bold and gaudy. Did we succeed? We thank the Garden Friends of Georgetown for the daffodil bulbs from Judy Cunningham's beautiful yard.



*Victorian garden at the museum.*

## An appeal from the Georgetown Peabody Library

The library has digitized newspapers from Georgetown's past and made them available and searchable to all through the library website <https://box2.nmtvault.com/ResCarta-GPL/jsp/ReWebBrowseCollections.jsp>.

However, the library lacks print copies of some newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries. If you can lend the library copies of any very old Georgetown newspapers such as *The Georgetown Evangelist*, *The Star*, *The Granger*, *The Georgetown Advocate*, *The Georgetown Blunderbus*, and *The Enterprise* please contact the library. In addition, as you are cleaning out old files, please look out for *The Georgetown News* from 1962-66, *The Georgetown Weekly* from 1966-1983, and even *The Georgetown Record* starting in 1982. The librarians would arrange for digital copies of the papers and return the originals to you.



Georgetown Historical Society  
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## Upcoming Events

Holiday Celebration  
Harry Murch Park

Sunday, November 28 - 5 pm

Save the Date: GHS Breakfast Meeting  
Details to follow!

Saturday, December 4 - 10 am - 12 pm

Georgetown's 11th Annual  
Holiday on Main Street!

Saturday, December 4 - 10 am - 5 pm

- JOIN US ON [FACEBOOK!](#) Search Groups: "Georgetown Historical Society."
- VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com) to see more information about GHS, upcoming events and Newsletter archives
- E-MAIL US AT: [info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com)