



WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BLACK HORSE BULLETIN

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April - June 2005

From the President

by Gail Sjo

Imagine!

Carol Keller and I did not know what to expect as we volunteered to help conduct a walk-through of the Sanborn House for architects and engineers whose firms are hoping to be hired to do a feasibility study funded by the Massachusetts Historical Commission grant (see the January - March 2005 issue of the *Black Horse Bulletin*) and the Capital Planning money approved at fall Town Meeting.

But to our happy surprise about 20 individuals attended the walk-through asking all sorts of questions – most of which we had answers for – taking pictures and demonstrating interest in the house and its future.

One question we were asked more than once was “How does the Historical Society plan to use the space in the Sanborn?” To which

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Picturing the Past: Society Receives Cultural Council Grant

by Nancy Schrock

Few things bring history alive more than photographs. The Winchester Archival Center has a rich collection dating back to the middle of the nineteenth century thanks to the Historical Society, which has gathered portraits of individuals and town groups, along with views of buildings and events since its founding in 1866. Some images have been used to illustrate books such as *Winchester, Massachusetts: Architectural Heritage of a Victorian Town* and our newest publication, *Children's History of Winchester*. The Griffin Center featured our photographs in their exhibition, “Winchester, Evolution of a New England Town,” in 2000. Many more pictures remain unidentified.



View of Mt. Vernon Street looking toward Main Street, 1880. Courtesy of the Winchester Archival Center.

This will change soon, thanks to a grant from the Winchester Cultural Council.

The grant funds will be used to purchase the Multi-media/Imaging software package for Past Perfect, the database being used to catalog the town's historic resources. Ragnhild Bairnsfather will install the software and prepare procedural guidelines to scan images and link them to catalog records created for each

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Society Web Site: www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org.

Officers and Directors 2004-05

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image. The goal is to be able to search the database by a wide range of subject headings and find images that can then be downloaded for researchers. Imagine typing in a street name or date and seeing pictures appear on the computer screen!

The project will preserve the photographs while making them accessible. Photographs are fragile, especially the early albumen prints mounted on brittle backing board and unmounted prints on thin paper. Their vulnerability to damage and theft has discouraged widespread use. People will now be able to search through scanned images rather than handling the originals. This will open the collection to more people, including children who are doing research on the town. It will also make the originals more secure because their use can be restricted, and it will no longer be necessary to borrow them to make copies – users can print from the computers. Ultimately the Past Perfect database will be placed on the town's shared drive so that townspeople can use it at the library as well as the Town Hall.



Delia Ranney Hall in her wedding dress, 1895. Courtesy of the Winchester Archival Center.

Like all Society efforts, the speed at which the project is implemented depends upon the time and energy of volunteers. If you are interested in joining the dedicated group working in the Archives, contact Randy Bairnsfather at rmbairns@att.netmail or 781-729-8639.

The Archival Center is located in the Town Hall. Hours of operation are:

- 1st Tuesday of month: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
- 2nd Thursday of month: 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
- 3rd Thursday of month: 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

All visitors must be supervised by one of the part-time volunteers who staff the Center. Patrons who cannot visit the Archival Center during its open hours may request individual appointments (tel: 781-721-7146; e-mail: archives@ci.winchester.ma.us); such appointments are made by individual volunteers at their discretion.



January Program

Society Celebrates the New Year

by Carol Keller

The Society started 2005 with a holiday event at the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum at the Jefferson Cutter House in Arlington on January 9th.

The Cutter House offered a cozy scene for the event, which was sandwiched between snow storms. In the meeting room in the lower level the Society's Board of Directors provided the holiday

fare, and upstairs in the Dallin Museum Geraldine Tremblay, Chair, Board of Trustees; James McGough, a founding member of the Board, and Chairman Emeritus; and volunteer Aaron Magil led tours of the Museum.

Cyrus E. Dallin (1861-1944) was a noted sculptor who lived and worked in Arlington. He came

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we answered, "We imagine a busy schedule of ever changing historical and cultural exhibits, some permanent displays, weekly programs, events, parties, a bit of office space, lots of basement and attic space for storing historical items, and perhaps some room for research."

After the walk-through, Carol and I reflected further on what we imagine for the Sanborn House. I thought I would share a "short list" of ideas with you.

Just imagine changing exhibits open to the public:

- ☐ highlighting the ethnic and racial history of Winchester
- ☐ showing daily life in Winchester during the early 1900's, when the Sanborn was built
- ☐ displaying models/pictures and histories of all the original one-room schoolhouses in town
- ☐ featuring paintings and other art of local artists – current and past
- ☐ showcasing the histories of all the religious organizations in town and their buildings
- ☐ displaying wedding clothes of years gone by
- ☐ chronicling the histories and contributions of Winchester's clubs and organizations
- ☐ providing the histories of local sports, such as hockey, tennis, and ice skating
- ☐ describing who's who in Winchester town government and how it functions.

Imagine permanent exhibits:

- ☐ overviewing Winchester's history
- ☐ showing the rerouting of the Aberjona
- ☐ displaying models/pictures of the arrival of a train and the eventual elevation of the center railroad bridge

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- ❑ featuring some of Winchester's more prominent citizens as well as some "everyday" folks
 - ❑ summarizing the geological events that shaped Winchester's terrain.
- Imagine:
- ❑ foreign movie followed with a "wine and cheese" discussion
 - ❑ room for book groups
 - ❑ 50th birthday parties or wedding anniversaries
 - ❑ fund raisers and other charitable events
 - ❑ small weddings
 - ❑ more Historical Society lectures and programs.

What are your ideas for the Sanborn House? I encourage you to join in the imagining, too.

We would love to hear what you imagine we can do with this wonderful building to make it an asset for the Society and for the whole town.



Editor on Board

A Note from the Publisher

by John Minniti

The call has been answered. Charles "Joe" Harris has volunteered to take on the editing duties for the newsletter. A former English teacher and private school administrator by profession, Joe brings a wealth of experience to the role, and, together, we pledge to produce a newsletter that will still further improve over time. We welcome your suggestions for articles, especially if you are willing to write them. See the January - March 2005 issue of the *Black Horse Bulletin* for details about submitting articles for publication.

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to Boston to study art in 1880, having been born in Utah, and he was a professor at what is now Massachusetts College of Art (MassArt) from 1900 to 1941.

His sculpture includes the Paul Revere statue behind North Church in Boston, the Moroni statue atop Salt Lake City's Temple (and a replicate atop the Belmont Temple), and the Native American sculpture "Appeal to the Great Spirit" at the Huntington Street entrance to the MFA.

The Dallin Museum has four galleries each highlighting a major category in Dallin's art. A virtual tour of the galleries can be viewed at www.dallin.org. Additional anecdotes on Dallin were provided by one of our Society members who had known Dallin, having grown up in his neighborhood in Arlington.

The Cutters were one of the oldest families in Arlington. As early as 1637, William Cutter farmed in the area. The Cutter House (circa 1830) was slated for demolition, has since been relocated to form a park in the center of Arlington, and wonderfully restored. Once again it offered a holiday environment to start the new year.



Members of the Society socializing at the Dallin Museum.



Special January Event

Book Ends Hosts a Book Signing for A Children's History of Winchester

by Carol Keller

Authors Mildred Allison and Ellen Knight were both present for a gala book signing event at Book Ends, Winchester Center, on January 22, 2005. Their new book, *A Children's History of Winchester, Massachusetts* published by the Winchester Historical Society, recently went on sale at the bookstore as well as being available directly through the Society.



Authors Mildred Allison (left) and Ellen Knight converse with customers while signing their book, *A Children's History of Winchester*, at Book Ends.

Ms. Allison originally created this history "in language the third grade students could understand," based on facts from Henry Chapman's two-volume *The History of Winchester*, also available at Book Ends. She was a reading teacher and her original manuscript was handwritten for use in the Winchester schools, where it was copied year after year.

In 2004 Ellen Knight revised and updated the booklet through funding from the Society and a supporting grant from the Massachusetts Historical Records Advi-

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sory Board obtained by the Collaborative For Documenting Winchester's History.

A grant from the EnKa Society paid for the printing of the books for the schools. With this community effort – several other individuals who volunteered their time are acknowledged in the booklet – we now have a published version of the History, ideal for any

younger reader and also for any older reader who would like an easy-to-read overview of Winchester's history.

It was with special sadness that the Society learned that Mildred Allison passed away on February 11th. Her gift of *A Children's History of Winchester* will be a community treasure for all the years to come.



Records Preservation Grant

Winchester Receives NEH Grant To Survey Historic Collections

by Nancy Schrock

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded the Town of Winchester a Preservation Assistance Grant for a consultant to do a preservation needs assessment of its historic records along with those of the Winchester Historical Society and the Winchester Public Library. It marks the second major grant supporting the Collaborative for Documenting Winchester's History, which seeks to develop a strategic plan for the town's historic resources.

This grant will be overseen by Carolyn Ward, Town Clerk, in collaboration with Gail Sjo, President of the Society, and Lynda Wills, Director of the Public Library.

The timing couldn't be better for the Society, which is in the midst of evaluating candidates for the Sanborn House feasibility study (see the "From the President" column on page 1 and the January - March 2005 issue of the *Black Horse Bulletin*).

Melissa Mannon, who worked with the Society on its state grant to organize the Archival Center, has been selected as consultant. Ms. Mannon will include the San-

born House in her assessment, evaluating its applicability as a site for storage and use of the Society's artifact collections and community records. Her recommendations will become part of the planning process for the building's renovation and use.

"The goal of the project is to improve the care of both governmental and private collections in Winchester, which has lagged behind other towns ..."

The end product will be a comprehensive report, which will become the basis for long-term planning for Winchester, the Historical Society, and the Public Library. The goal of the project

is to improve the care of both governmental and private collections in Winchester, which has lagged behind other towns for many years.

Sanborn House Update

By Carol Keller

Snow may still engulf the Sanborn House, but activities for its preservation and use are marching along.

As announced in the last newsletter, the Society was awarded a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Funds (MPPF) matching grant, grants which are awarded annually by The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC.) This grant is to be used to hire a preservation architect to provide a survey of the Sanborn House addressing development of exterior and interior plans and design schemes.

"... the town, the MHC and the Society have worked together to prepare a Request for Proposals ..."

In December, Gail Sjo and Carol Keller went for MHC training on administering the grant. This was followed by a site visit to the Sanborn House by Carol DiNinno, Preservation Planner for the MHC. At the same time, the town, the MHC and the Society have worked together to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the preparation of a more encompassing feasibility study for the Sanborn House, which includes the work of the preservation architect. Proposals are due in early February, enabling selection of qualified consultants by the end of February, and hopefully a draft study to be available before spring Town Meeting. Margaret White from the town will be the Project Manager for the assessment.

Efforts are continuing to engage the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee, and Town Counsel in a review of the proposed lease for the Sanborn House.

Winchester Historical Society Publications

Please use this order form to purchase copies of Society publications. For descriptions and non-member pricing, see the Society web site (www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org). Send the completed form, together with a check for the total amount, to the Winchester Historical Society, PO Box 127, Winchester, MA 01890-0127, Attention: Book Sales Department.

	Title	Member Price	No. of Copies	Cost
BOOKS	<i>A Children's History of Winchester, Massachusetts</i> by Mildred Allison; updated by Ellen Knight	\$9.95	_____	\$ _____
	<i>Winchester, Massachusetts, The Architectural Heritage of a Victorian Town</i>	\$12.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>Artists of Winchester, 1850-1950</i> by Ellen Knight	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
PAMPHLETS	<i>The Architects of Winchester, Massachusetts</i> (edited by Maureen Meister):			
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Herbert Dudley Hale, French Method, Health Laws, and Progressive Views on Education Contribute to a New Winchester High School</i> by James Owens Ross	Free	_____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alexander Esty, A Romanesque Church Design: Image and Meaning</i> by Nina Harkrader	Free	_____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Theodore Voelckers, A Picturesque Public Hall for a New Town</i> by Roger G. Reed	Free	_____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Herbert J. Kellaway, Linking Water, Parks and Parkways in the Olmsted Tradition</i> by Julie Khuen	Free	_____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hill & James, Beaux Arts Splendor in a Suburban Setting</i> by Roger G. Reed	Free	_____	
MAPS / NOTEPADS	<i>Winchester High School, Winchester Junior High School, McCall Junior High School, Lincoln Elementary School, a Centennial History, 1904-2004</i> by Ellen Knight	Free	_____	
	<i>1854 Map of Winchester</i> (27" x 20")	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>1875 Map of Winchester</i> (17" x 11")	\$2.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>1886 Map of Winchester</i> (28 ½" x 22")	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>1889 Map of Winchester</i> (29" x 19")	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>1941 Ernest Dudley Chase Pictorial Map of Winchester</i>	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
	Notepads – small (4 ½" x 5 ¼") (multiple designs): specify design (see web site): _____	\$2.50 per pad	_____	\$ _____
Notepads – large (5" x 7") (multiple designs): specify design (see web site): _____	\$3.25 per pad	_____	\$ _____	
Shipping and Handling:				\$3.00
TOTAL:				\$ _____

Notices and Upcoming Events

Board Meetings – Third Tuesday of the month (April 19 / May 17 / June 21, 2005): 7:30 P.M., Town Hall, Mystic Valley Room.

Programs – April 5, 2005, 7:30 P.M.: "The Clock Man," Steve Sanborn, antique clock restorer; Griffin Museum

April, 2005: Covered Dish Dinner. (Date to be determined; watch for the meeting notice.)

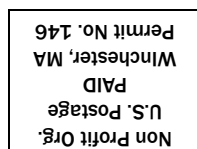
May 2005: Annual Meeting. Back by popular request: "The Landscape of the Urban Major League Baseball Parks of 1909-1923," Matthew Bronski. (Date to be determined; watch for the meeting notice.)

June 4, 2005: Town Day. Visit the Society booth and participate in the Historical Trolley Tours.

Help Wanted – The Society needs volunteers for the on-going oral history project. For more information, please contact one of the oral history coordinators: Marilyn Preston (tel: 781-729-2039) or Randy Bairnsfather (tel: 781-729-8539; e-mail: rmbairns@att.net).

The Annual House Tour is postponed to May 2006, weather permitting. If you can help with this project, please contact Nancy O'Herron (tel: 781-446-7442).

Town Day is scheduled for June 4, 2005. The Society, which sponsors the Historical Trolley Tours, needs volunteers to run the booth and assist people with tickets for the trolley. For additional information, please contact Jim Donovan (tel: 781-721-0730; e-mail: jim@donovanden.com)



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