



WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BLACK HORSE BULLETIN

Volume 31, Number 2

April - June 2006

From the President

by Gail Sjo

Spring brings new energy and change.

Winter, however unseasonably warm, seemed to last longer than necessary. Now that the days are longer, brighter, and warmer, new growth, energy, and change are palpable everywhere. Activity within the Historical Society is no exception. Volunteers are busy planning new programs, our annual potluck and trolley tours for Town Day. An impressive pamphlet on the work of John Kutts, by Roger Reed, the 7th in the Architect of Winchester series, is going to print. Another on Robert Coit is being researched and written by Society member Ellen Spencer, who lives in a Coit-designed home. The Society's annual membership drive is underway. Help us grow the Society by letting your friends and relatives know this is

(continued on page 2, President

The Sanborn Center: It's time to..... TALK!

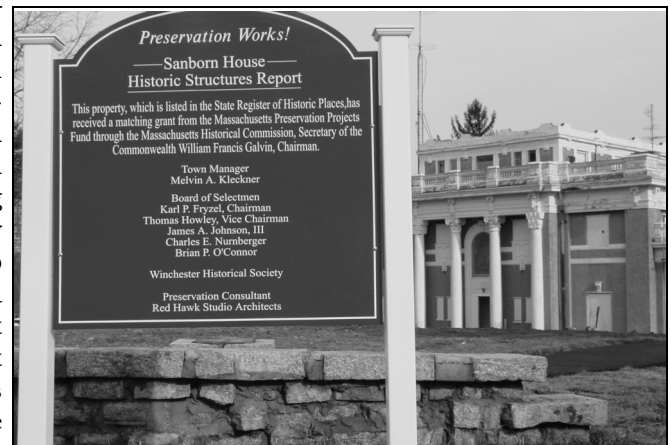
by Dinah Voorhies, Sanborn Publicity Workgroup

This past fall a call was put out for people interested in working on the Sanborn Reborn project, and about 20 people responded. The workgroups that they created have made great progress. But there is also a way for every person in the Historical Society to help be an ambassador for the Sanborn's future. It's easy, and it doesn't even cost anything!

That way is simply to talk

In future years we will need to

about the project – with friends, with work colleagues, in Winchester and elsewhere, even with strangers if you feel comfortable doing that. Studies show that for people to take action in a cause, they first have to hear about it often, sometimes from six to twelve times, and hearing about it live, from a person (even more so from a friend), makes for a most persuasive message.



have many people take action – all kinds of action – if The Sanborn Historical & Cultural Center (The Sanborn Center) is to become a

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Sanborn House Web Site: www.sanbornhouse.us

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reality. People will need to come to events, rent space, visit exhibits, give money, time, materials or expertise, be volunteers, and participate in a huge variety of ways. Each time you mention the project to someone it adds another moment of consciousness. People come to associate you with the project, and know that they can ask you if they later have a question about it.

Talking about the project is fun, too! Once you've done it you'll probably have some fascinating surprises. I found that once I had one or two of these experiences, I wanted to keep doing it. Two actual examples:

- ❑ I told a friend in Concord who is in her late seventies about the project. It turns out that she was in the Winchester High School "Class of '45" (the class that is documented in the book, *Images of America: Winchester*, by Frank H. Sleeper) and had grown up right beside the Sanborn House on Oneida Road! Of course she is now very interested in its future and what we are doing.
- ❑ At a business lunch along Rt. 128, I wanted to speak with

one woman who mentioned doing recruiting for non-profits. In our chat, I mentioned the Sanborn House project to her. She turned out to be someone who had helped the Society apply for the Massachusetts Historical Commission grant that helped fund the Feasibility Study! Small world.

Why does the title read Sanborn Center rather than Sanborn House? The full formal name for the new undertaking is "The Sanborn House Historical & Cultural Center". The "short" name agreed on by the Winchester Historical Society board, the Sanborn Committee, and the Sanborn workgroups is "The Sanborn Center" (though there are certain times when saying "Sanborn House" still makes sense.) The new names alert people to the community aspect of what we are trying to achieve. It will be more than just a beautiful historic house. By having everyone use the new name, we carry forward this message of the Sanborn's exciting new future.

And if you are wondering what to say, be sure to come to the April potluck and find out more!



January Program

Society Celebrates

by Carol Keller and Nancy Schrock

The snow stopped and the sun appeared just in time for the Society's *Celebrate the New Year Party!* The party to acknowledge the holiday season was once again held on January 8th to avoid the holiday rush. This seems to fit Society members' schedules, as fifty-plus Society members joined the holiday festivities and enjoyed the holiday snacks and drinks. The event also celebrated the newly renovated Depot Building in Lexington, the new headquarters of the Lexington Historical Society. The Depot Building, built in 1847, has once again returned to the social and ceremonial heart of Lexington, located just off Mass Ave and one block from Lexington Green.

At one-time 19 trains a day stopped each way as they traveled from Boston to Arlington, Con-

cord, and Bedford, and back. It served the Boston and Maine

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an exciting time to join as we start to "make history" transforming the Sanborn House. Applications are on the web site or can be obtained by contacting our membership co-chair, Dinah Voorhies (781-526-8058).

The 20-plus members of the Sanborn work groups have incredible energy. Clean-up days are being scheduled for the house and grounds, a small office space designed, house security evaluated, a temporary kitchen "wish list" created, fundraising plans taking shape, grants being investigated, Sanborn Reborn tee-shirts printed, the Sanborn link on the Society web site is now "live" in draft form, short and long term business plans being fleshed out, and new outreach efforts to the community being initiated.

Both big and small changes aimed at strengthening how the Society is structured and operated are being considered. One big change is the decision to move our biannual historic house tour from May to Saturday, October 14, 2006. Over the years, the House Tour Committee has felt the month of May seemed like "the busiest month of the year". So rather than continue to compete with weddings, graduations, the EnKa Fair, and a multitude of activities, we are going to try out a fall tour. Several architecturally lovely homes are already lined up, and if you would like to volunteer yours, contact Nancy O'Herron (781-446-7442).

Enjoy the spring and take the opportunity to get more involved with the Society. We welcome your energy.



Corporate Sponsors

Hall & Sullivan, Attorneys at Law
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Children's Own School

Welcome

by Paula Swartz

We welcome the following members who have joined the Winchester Historical Society recently:

Helen and Richard
Campobasso
Mary Ann and Robert Crockett
Sue Lynch
Betty and Ken McVicar
Dinah Voorhies

For anyone who is interested in joining the Society, contact Paula Swartz (tel: 781-721-2138; e-mail: pkc.swartz@comcast.net) for a membership application.



Thanks for Your Generous Response

by Nancy Schrock

We thank the generous donors to our 2005 Annual Appeal. To date we have received \$5,670, which will allow us to set up our office in the Sanborn House, publish an extra issue of the Architects of Winchester, expand our web site to include photographs from the Archival Center, and continue our strong offering of programs. Thank you to:

Martha and George Hebb
Oscar and Barbara Bing
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Edward and Laura Reboul
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Jerry and Judy Blaine
Maureen Meister and David Feigenbaum
Joe and Phyllis Murphy
Lal C. Chugh
David W. Stirling
Dinah L. Voorhies

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(continued from page 2, Celebration)

Railroad until early in the 1970's. Hometown son, Tom Silva and the Silva Brothers construction crew (from *This Old House*) helped with the restoration.

Tom recalls childhood memories of steam engines coming into the station. Our own Nancy Schrock grew up in Lexington and kindly shared her memories of Lexington and the train station, and noted the changes that have occurred over the years.

Lexington in 1956 was a quiet town with active farms and train service to downtown Boston. Families had lived in Lexington for generations and New York accents were rare when Nancy's family arrived. The Carlsons lived on Cedar Street, an area carved out for veterans after the Korean War. She recalled exploring the fields behind her house, once the

town's Poor Farm, sledding on the golf course, and shopping at Grover Cronin's department store in Waltham. She never went to Winchester except for football



games. Lexington's orientation was toward Arlington and Cambridge - and in fact Johnson Road did not exist to link the two towns until Winchester developed the West Side after World War II.

The Society would like to thank the Lexington Historical Society for making an exception to its Lexington-residents-only rental policy, and allowing a sister Historical Society to use the building.



Boston Architectural Center Visit

Design Class Focuses on Sanborn House

by Dinah Voorhies

"The exterior was so beautiful I couldn't wait to go inside" said Parish Kennington afterward. "I'm so glad that this house will finally receive the care and appreciation that it is owed," added Lindsay Nason. Comments like these from the "Restoration of Period Interiors" class at the Boston Architectural Center, which toured the Sanborn house on Saturday, February 4, show that the structure still has the power to impress, to charm, and to draw supporters.

Led by instructor Heather von Mering, Winchester Historical Society president Gail Sjo, and vice president Carol Keller, the group of about ten students plus members of several Sanborn Reborn project workgroups viewed rooms on the first two floors and the surrounding grounds. For the semester-long course, the class will focus all

projects on the Sanborn House. To complete the course, all students will present papers on their selection of rooms, suggesting interior treatments in keeping with the period and history of the building. The choice of whether to follow the path of pure restoration or opt for a more modern handling of the space will be theirs.

(continued on page 4, Class Tour)

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These are hypothetical case studies, yet von Mering and the students have kindly offered to supply the Historical Society with copies of the papers at the end of the class – a new part of the house history and valuable to the Society as future commissioners of such work.

Von Mering explained that her decision to use the house for the projects was largely influenced by the fact that it was in an unrestored state and in obvious need of attention. "This opened up more possibilities, and I knew it would actually be more inspiring for the students than a finished building would have been," she said.

A member of the Historical Society, she had also known of her uncle Ed Delaney's long involvement with the Sanborn Reborn work. Von Mering received her architecture degree from Notre Dame University, one of the few U.S. schools to model their

program on the classical methods of the 19th century Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. She is treasurer of the newly formed New England chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America arts (www.classicist.org), a group devoted to education in and appreciation for the classic tradition of architecture and the allied arts. She also continues this stylistic connection in her work for The Classic Group, Architects and Builders, of Lexington (www.theclassic-group.net).

"I think that it's great that the town and the Historical Society want to bring the house back to its original state as much as they can while being able to utilize the space for today's needs," said class member Susan Alling. And as Gwenn Catterfeld concluded, and we would all agree, "The Sanborn House has a grace and an elegance that still resounds after a hundred years."



Sanborn House Historical & Cultural Center

A Logo for Sanborn Reborn!

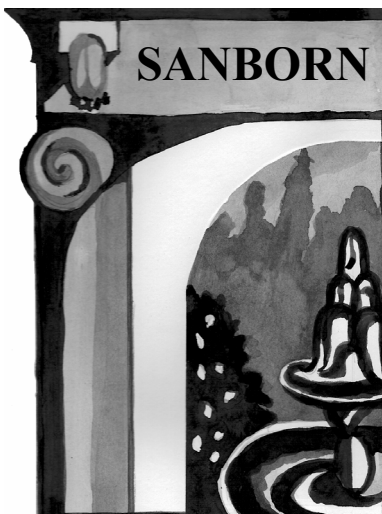
by John Minniti

Now that the Sanborn Reborn! project is getting under way, the Sanborn Committee, including the workgroups, has adopted a logo which you will start to see around town.

Designed by Winchester resident Susan Vrotsos, the image captures the most important interior and exterior features of the Sanborn House, while alluding to the long-range goal of the Winchester Historical Society to develop the Sanborn House Historical & Cultural Center. Look for the logo as the project picks up steam.

Also, please notice that we now have a special web site for the Sanborn project. It's listed in the

masthead on page 1 of the *Bulletin*.



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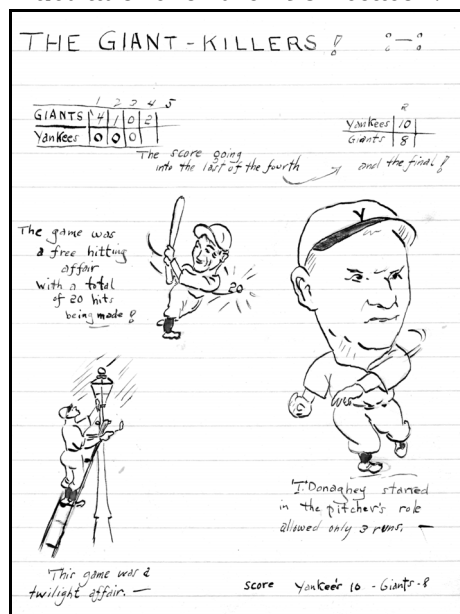
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 Joanne Austad
 Whitney Gay

When we were entering donor information into our new membership database, we discovered that two of our donors neglected to put their names on the donation forms. If you contributed and do not see your name in the list above, please contact the treasurer, Nancy Schrock (tel: 781-729-1229; e-mail: treasurer@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org) so that we may acknowledge your generous gift with thanks and a receipt.

From the Archives

by Nancy Schrock

Winchester Yankees? Back in 1931, "Yankee" wasn't a dirty word in our town. Thanks to Beverly Holbrook Treen, we know about the fierce competition that existed between the Winchester Yankees, North End Eagles, Bowery Midgents, Plains Sluggers, and the Cross Street Tigers - all part of the Winchester Playground League. Beverly donated five notebooks of baseball statistics, game logs, and newspaper clippings compiled by her father Arnold P. Holbrook (1915-1997). Arnold was also an amateur artist, as evidenced by his illustrations for the 1931 season:



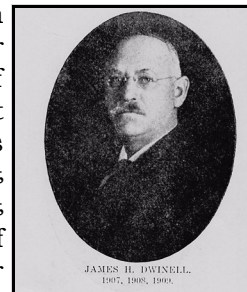
But life in Winchester was not all play. Some in the town worked at the Winn Watch Hand Company at 620 Washington Street, recently the home of the International Family Church and now owned by Winchester Hospital. Rev. Earl Darlington added to our Winn Collection with a photograph of factory employees from 1900 - thirty-one women and three men - and another of a two-story building addition from 1910.

Sanborn Fun Fact #4

What made Oren and Rena Sanborn choose Winchester as their home? During research for the fall 2005 Sanborn exhibit at the library, a hint came along that deserved some further investigation.

A biographical paragraph on Oren's father James, founder of the Chase & Sanborn coffee company, mentioned that, starting in 1868, he had been employed by Taylor & Dwinell, a Boston coffee and spice company, for several years before founding his own company. A second occurrence of the Dwinell name showed up when a multi-photo program cover showing members of Winchester's Calumet Club included both Oren Sanborn and one "J. Herbert Dwinell." Could there be a connection?

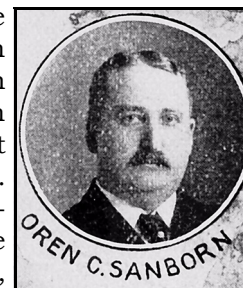
Yes! The Winchester Star index and microfilm provided an obituary for James F. Dwinell, father of James Herbert Dwinell. A contemporary of James Sanborn's, he had purchased a half-interest in a coffee and spice company in 1850 that was thereafter known as the aforementioned Taylor & Dwinell. By the 1860s it was called Hill, Dwinell & Co., and it was listed in the Boston Directories of 1867 to 1876 as Dwinell & Co. In 1877 a merger with Hayward & Co. brought about its subsequent name. This was clearly the man for whom James Sanborn had worked.



James Dwinell was "one of the best and most prominent men" of Winchester. Among his many public positions, he served on the Water Board starting in 1873. "His long connection with the Water Board resulted in great measure in the splendid water system that Winchester enjoys today, and will for a hundred years to come," wrote the author of his obituary in 1898. At the time of his

death he was president of the Winchester Savings Bank, a connection that continued for several further generations.

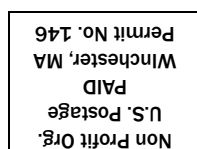
It is hard to know when the sons of these "coffee kings" first met. They were about 10 years apart in age, J. Herbert being born around 1855 and Oren around 1865. From the time in 1890 when Oren and Rena moved to their first Winchester home at 12 Sheffield Road, the men must have met socially. But could their fathers' earlier connection and perhaps some earlier friendship have encouraged the Sanborns' move? It seems probable. Like Oren, James Herbert worked at his father's company, and both of the coffee companies were located in Boston.



We thus now know that there were not just one but two "coffee princes" in Winchester and possibly why there is a "Sanborn" house here today. [DV]

Notices and Upcoming Events

- Meetings** – Third Tuesday of the month (April 18 / May 16 / June 20, 2006): Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M. in the Mystic Valley Room, Winchester Town Hall.
- Programs** – April 5, 7:30 P.M.: "In Their Own Words, Part IV, "actors Dot and Dick Santos, Oral Histories, Winchester Room, Town Hall
April 29, Pot Luck Dinner
May 17, 7:30 P.M.: Annual Meeting, Roger Reed, "The Robert Bacon House (1830) and its Architect, John Kutts"
June 3: Town Day (Trolley tours, Sanborn House tours, Winchester Historical Society booth).
- Plan ahead** – Early October, Ellen Spencer, "Winchester Houses of Architect, Robert Coit"
October 14: Historic House Tour.
- Help Wanted** – The Society needs volunteers to help clean up the Sanborn House, most likely on Saturdays in April and May. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cynthia Latta (tel: 781-729-9256; e-mail: cynthia@chickadee.us)
The Society needs volunteers to coordinate the trolley tours, assist with the booth, and lead tours of the Sanborn House; For more information, please contact Gail Sjo (tel: 781-729-6560; e-mail: sjogail@aol.com) or Carol Keller (tel: 781-729-4643; e-mail: kellerck@aol.com).
The *Black Horse Bulletin* needs volunteers to write articles about Winchester's history. If you would like to see your bylined article in print, please contact John Minniti (e-mail: jminniti@comcast.net), Charles Harris (e-mail: charleyharris@yahoo.com), or Cynthia Latta (e-mail: cynthia@chickadee.us).
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