

WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BLACK HORSE BULLETIN

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April — June 2009

From the President

by Bob Colt

The Winchester Historical Society has had a great year! In addition to making critical improvements to the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center, it has continued to offer a range of artistic, historical and educational programs. The hard-working, diligent members of the Board of Directors and our caring and growing membership continue to stay involved to plan, execute and monitor the renovations to the Sanborn House. Likewise they have participated in the variety of educational and social programs.

It is also amazing to realize that the Black Horse Bulletin has been updating the Winchester community on the Society's progress for the last 34 years in the 75-year history of the Society.

The Society is "Going Green" with the completion of the new roof for the Sanborn and with the installation of the highly effective "Icynene Insulation

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Society Receives Fire Department Artifacts

by Randy Bairnsfather

Mr. Neil MacArthur, a Winchester resident and deputy chief of the Winchester Auxiliary Fire Department, came into the Archival Center in Town Hall in February, carrying two large canvas bags filled with fire department memorabilia. They contained helmets, badges, belts, buttons, a bucket and more.

Among the firemen's badges are some from Black Horse Hose Company, J.W. Huse Company, West Side Hose and a badge that was the Chief Engineer's from 1861. There are six wide leather belts, now stiff from age. They were worn to meetings, social events and parades. A white metal hat had been presented to a fire chief in the 1870s and was probably used only in ceremonies and parades (see photograph.) A less grand hat is made of black wool and belonged to Chief Irving Symmes. We have a photo of him in the Archives in which he is wearing this hat.

An unusual part of the donation was a horn from a 1910 Knox Chemical

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Fire department memorabilia now in the Society's display case in Town Hall.

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A Summer Read: *Wickford Point*

by John Clemson

An interesting literary connection has recently come to light regarding a figure important to the town's architectural history, Herbert Dudley Hale (1866-1908.) Mr. Hale was the architect of the Lincoln School, which was originally constructed to house the High School in 1903. In his satirical and largely autobiographical novel *Wickford Point*, author John P. Marquand (1893-1960) depicts his relationship to his aunt and first cousins fictionally but in great detail. They were, in real life, the widow and children of Hale.

In Marquand's novel the Hales are depicted as the Brills, a somewhat dissipated old Yankee family with vaunted historical, literary and political connections which bestow on them considerable delusions of cultural grandeur. The Brills are descendants of old John Brill, "the Sage of Wickford Point" who is a thinly veiled characterization of the poet John Greenleaf Whittier. Marquand's exchange of Whittier for the real Hale literary ancestor, Edward Everett Hale (Herbert Dudley Hale's father) is an obvious effort to not alert his readers to the target of his satire. Both Whittier and Hale were associated directly or indirectly with the Transcendentalist movement, were ardent abolitionists, and were poets or novelists who became susceptible over time to gentle satire such as is practiced by Marquand.

The real Hale family was descended from the earliest settlers of New England and was of prestigious lineage. This included a minister associated with the Salem Witch Trials, Revolutionary War spy Nathan Hale, and indirectly Edward Everett (1794-1865), Massachusetts Governor, U.S. Secretary of State and known to history primarily for being the speaker immediately preceded Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg. Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), his nephew, and Herbert Dudley Hale's father, was a prominent Unitarian minister,

abolitionist, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate and literary figure.

Throughout the novel the first-person narrator representing Marquand, Jim Calder, is put upon in various ways by the Hale/Brills. The family, surviving off the income from a trust fund set up by Calder's (and in reality Marquand's) grandfather, is constantly in arrears. The Calder character is the only cousin with an income. The family lives very much in their own universe but is continually intruded upon from the saner, outer world. Yet Calder recognizes at the same time, with some fondness, "the Brills were different from other people, and I was glad that they were different..." Many of these satirical depictions are tempered throughout the novel with expressions of fondness and understanding that provide further insight about the likely outlook and attitudes of the real Hale family. The outcome of this complex relationship did not turn out as benevolently as it is depicted. Marquand ended up suing his cousins over possession of property in the late 1940s.

By the time *Wickford Point* was published, Herbert Dudley Hale had been dead for 30 years. This depiction though fictional, is considered by Marquand's critics and biographers to have been highly accurate. The fictional account makes an entertaining book for summer reading.

Much of the understanding of the fictional and real families discussed here can be found in the book, "Marquand, An American Life," Little, Brown, 1979 by Millicent Bell.

Editors note: Many copies of Wickford Point are available through the Minuteman Network at the Winchester Public Library.

(continued from p.1, President)

System" into the ceilings that touch the roof. This insulation will keep the 100 year-old building warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer while providing better air quality. Andrew D. Pywell, Inc of Winchester did the preparation and capping of the ceilings and Healthy Homes, Inc. of Melrose was the installer of this specialized expanding foam, donated by "Icynene, Inc."

Comcast donated the installation work for cables into the Sanborn House so we are now wireless and have entered the 21st century of communications.

The next project is the renovation of the entrance to the kitchen and the purchase of caterers' kitchen tables, thanks to a grant written by Nancy Schrock and funded by the En Ka Society. Stay tuned as we make progress with the renovation of the 19-room Sanborn House as it enters its second century of use.

A big day for the Historical Society and the Town of Winchester is always Town Day. On June 6th, the Society will be hosting the 2nd Annual Strawberry Festival and Classical Car Show. There will be trolleys transporting folks up the hill in the afternoon to enjoy strawberry shortcake, tours of the Sanborn House and viewing of some wonderful vintage cars. Please make sure to take in this memorable

The many community and business groups, and families that are using the Sanborn House are attesting to what a true community historical and cultural center the Sanborn House is becoming. The recent annual meeting of the Winchester Chamber of Commerce at the House was a prime example of the liveliness of some of the events. Rep. Jason Lewis and the Chamber's leadership spoke. I welcomed the crowd which included many of the key business leaders of Winchester on behalf of the Society. Among those attending were Selectmen Roger Berman, Forrest Fontana, Tom Howley, Jim Johnson and Brian O'Connor, who have all been friends and supporters of the Chamber and the Winchester Historical Society.

Please give a little bit back to the Historical Society! Following in the wake of our May 30th Sanborn House and Grounds Clean-Up Day, we will have some summer projects to get the house ready for a busy fall. Please consider volunteering your time or resources to help out the Sanborn House.

(continued from p.1, Fire Dept.)

wagon. Fire hydrants were located in the center of town, but not in distant areas. The chemical wagon had two brass containers. One held water and sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), the other, sulfuric acid. When the acid was pumped into the water/baking soda tank, it created sufficient pressure to put out small fires. It was in use from about 1860 to the 1920s.

Another interesting oddity was a fire hose nozzle from the Black Horse reel that is stored at the Auxiliary Fire Station. It dates from 1874 and the reel makes an occasional appearance at special events. The reel held the hose and at a fire, it connected to the pumper to fight the blaze.

One of the more colorful artifacts is a leather water bucket dating to the 1830s. It was hand decorated in more recent times by Alta Merritt Lynch to replicate the original bucket used by the Black Horse Hose Company in 1874.

A selection of items from this donation is on view in the display case near the Town Clerk's counter in Town Hall. You'll also find photographs from the Archival Center's collection showing some of the town's fire companies from the early 1900s as well as fire equipment in action.



The Archival Center is located in Town Hall and is open to the public each month on the first Tuesday of the month, 7-9 p.m.; second Thursday, 1-3 p.m.; third Thursday, 3-5 p.m.; or by appointment. Call 781-721-7146 or send an email to Archives@winchester.us.

The Archives Advisory Committee oversees operations and is headed by volunteers Randy Bairnsfather, Ellen Knight, and Nancy Schrock who report to the Town Manager. John Clemson assists with reference. Over the past year, volunteers Diane Donovan and Alice Fitzgerald have helped catalog and scan historical collections to make them accessible in our database. If you have a few hours/month to contribute to this project, please send an email to Archives@winchester.us.

Sanborn House Goes Green!

by David Stirling

The Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center now has an advanced state of the art roof insulation system and air barrier in addition to the brand new single ply membrane applied over two thirds of the building roof last fall. Open-cell spray foam insulation has been installed in the dropped ceiling areas directly below the new roof system. The insulation materials were generously donated to the Winchester Historical Society by the product manufacturer, Icynene Inc. (Mississauga, ON.) The Society would like to thank the manufacturer's representative Jack Sheehan for his help in obtaining this donation. Healthy Homes of Melrose, MA was hired by the Society to apply the spray foam insulation.

One of the great advantages of the Icynene material is that it not only provides a high value of thermal insulation, it also provides an air-seal or air-barrier, effectively minimizing air leakage. This delivers significant moisture control and improved air quality. Before products like this were available, air leakage during the heating season carried warm heated air and moisture from the building, typically resulting in half of the building's energy loss. The air removed is replaced by infiltration of the unheated air through gaps in the structure. Infiltration also brings outdoor allergens, odors and pollutants into the building. In hot weather with air conditioning systems, air barriers produce similar savings in operating costs.

Icynene is 100% water-blown, with no hydrofluorocarbons that can off-gas into the indoor environment. Water, being a non-ozone depleting substance, does not contribute to global warming. Icynene is classified as a green product, which helps buildings qualify for Green Building programs such as LEED and NGBS (National Green Building Standard).

The Winchester Historical Society will continue to implement important and critically needed improvements to the historic Sanborn House. Future priorities include an energy and mechanical systems study, replacement of the current oil fired boiler with gas fired equipment, upgrades to the catering and kitchen facility, façade improvements and a new accessible entrance. If you can help with any of these projects, please contact the Society at 781-721-0135. Volunteers with expertise in any of these priority areas would be welcome.

A Fashion House

by Ellen Knight

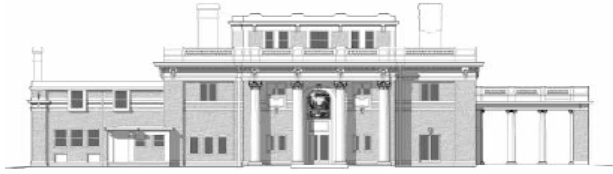


When the Sanborn family owned Aigrement (which we know as the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center), they opened the house and grounds for many charity events. In October 1917, the big event was a fashion show. According to the *Winchester Star* (Oct. 26, 1917), "It was a distinctly society affair, and society matrons and maids appeared as mannikins [sic] wearing fashion's latest decrees in gowns, furs, hats and wraps. A notable assembly of people were present and contributed to the success of the show."

One photograph, courtesy of the *Boston Post*, showed Lillian Russell of Hartford and Mrs. Ralph Nickerson of Brookline in gowns. Another showed

Helen Sanborn, daughter of Oren and Lorena Sanborn, modeling a hat of the latest fashion (see photo above). The proceeds from the fashion show were devoted to the operating wing of the Winchester Hospital.

Rent the Sanborn House



Planning a special event, business meeting, or classes for the summer or fall? The Society would like to remind our members, the community and colleagues that the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center is available for rent for personal and professional functions.

It is a wonderful facility for anniversaries or birthdays, business meetings, lectures, seminars, or classes offering large and small rooms with beautiful, turn of century details. There is also access to a large kitchen for catered events. Situated at the top of over four acres of gracious rolling lawn at the edge of Myopia Hill, the Sanborn House boasts views of Winchester and the French doors throughout the first floor offer access to a covered veranda and the lawn.

By renting the Sanborn House for your event, you are supporting the restoration of this historic home. The Winchester Historical Society holds a long term lease and is leading a fundraising campaign to restore and preserve the architectural integrity of the Sanborn House for use as the community's first historical and cultural center.

Please call 781-721-0135 for a tour or details; see the Society website at www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org for additional information.

The Society Gets Wired: Help the Society get Greener!

The Sanborn House, including the Society office, joined the 21st century of communications recently with the installation of Internet and wireless service to the facility. The Society is now able to send emails from its member database having also upgraded its PastPerfect software, a program for non-profits and museums.

Please select on your 2009-2010 member renewal form your choice of how you would like to receive Society event notices. Would you want to receive event mailings via email only, email and print both, or print only? Be sure to add your email address. This also will allow the Society to update members of any last minute event time or location changes.

Comcast generously donated the installation work for the cable into the Sanborn House. This puts the House on the Internet and allows the Society to offer wireless capability to users of the House as well as for members working in the House. This is especially helpful for the Society office and for the Collections documentation efforts

You may change your choice for receiving event notices at any time by sending an email to: president@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org.

Thanks, Sue!

by Nancy Schrock

For the past two years, Sue Clark has been the public face of the Sanborn House as our Events and Facilities Manager. With her experience in catering and events management, she established the Sanborn House rentals on a professional footing. Highlights included the Speakeasy fundraiser, the Strawberry Festival and Classic Car show, installation of a new art hanging system and our first art exhibit. Sue worked along with the town and contractors to improve the interior of the Sanborn House so that it is equipped for large and small meetings, tea parties, sweet sixteen or 50th birthday parties, and major fundraisers like ABC's mystery night and two Parties for the Arts. Thank you, Sue, from all of us!



In April, Sue stepped down from her position to devote more time to her family and her art. We thank her for her hard work on behalf of the Historical Society and we wish her well. We look forward to welcoming her to the Sanborn House in the future.

Nancy Schrock, as Chair of the Sanborn Operations Committee, is responsible for operating the House on an interim basis. Special thanks go to board members Betsy Cregger, Douglas Marmon, Laurie Minniti, and Nancy O'Herron who have offered their time to maintain the Wednesday morning open-hours as well as to show the House to prospective clients.

Re-enacting Revolutionary History

by Ellen Knight*

Early on April 19, 1775, the alarm that the British were on the move to Concord reached Woburn. Militia men from this area (then Woburn, Medford and Charlestown—Winchester's parent towns) hurried to join minutemen from other communities as they gathered in Lexington, Concord, and Arlington to meet the British on the day the first shot was fired in the Revolutionary War.

With Patriot's Day right around the corner, on April 8 two members of Gardner's Regiment visited the Sanborn House to talk about what historical re-enactors do and how re-enactment helps bring this history alive. Musical accompaniment was performed by the Living History Guild.

Christopher Hurley, a Winchester native, evoked the spirit of the times by imagining a local militia man at the Siege of Boston. This man lived along the Aberjona River in a small village two miles south of Woburn center, sometimes known as Black Horse Village. "The wounded and dead at Lexington", Hurley said, "were your relatives, your friends." You joined the Siege "so the British don't do to Black Horse Village what they did to Lexington, Concord, and Menotomy!"

Michael Bonislowski, Field Commander of Gardner's Regiment, which includes the Charleston, Woburn, and Cambridge Militia Companies, talked about what re-enactors do and why. A history professor at Salem State College, Bonislowski said they have done 55 events, like musters and marches, during the past two years. "We'll show up for anything," he said. They attempt to wear the correct clothing and carry correctly recreated



The Living History Guild provided music from the colonial period during the evening event.

equipment. Not every re-enactor portrays a militia man. Individuals choose what they want to do and who they want to be, either military or civilian (e.g. craftspeople).

"It's exciting," Bonislowski said, explaining that through re-enactment they come to understand the people, what they endured, and what they felt. "It's discovering real life."

One thing he learned is that "the idea of a scraggly bunch of misfits is not true." Colonists drilled with the militia from age 16 up through 60. "The British were crack troops," he said, "but so were the Colonials."

Bonislowski encouraged people to read and learn more about people active at the time of the Revolution. "It's an adventure in discovery. There's always something new."

Gardner's Regiment musters on the first Sunday of the month but accepts whatever time a person wants to put in. Those interested may visit: www.charlestownmilitia.org.

Campaign Update

by Donna Patalano

The Historical Society continues to make progress in the planning a capital campaign for the restoration of the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center.

Software is now in place to help us manage the campaign and future development programs effectively. We are also completing a case statement and other supporting documents, which will allow us to discuss the campaign with our members and the community at large. In the near future we will need to supplement our dedicated development committee with an active campaign committee to expand plans and programs for donors.

While we vigorously continue to plan our next steps in the campaign, we are ever vigilant of the chaotic financial markets and economic turmoil our nation is experiencing. Based on input from our strongest supporters and our fundraising consultant, and in consideration of the general economic climate, we have decided to delay conversations about the campaign until the late summer and early fall.

Thank you all for your strong support of the Winchester Historical Society. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress and look forward to engaging our members and the community about our goals and the Sanborn restoration in the near future.



Sanborn House Gets Cooking!

by Nancy Schrock

Thanks to a grant of \$5,000 from the En Ka Society, the Historical Society will take the first step in upgrading the kitchen of the Sanborn House. After meeting with John Sousa of Crabtree McGrath Associates, Food Facilities Planners, and Sue Clark, an experienced caterer and our former Facilities Manager, the Building Committee drafted a preliminary kitchen plan.

Work will begin on the “buttery,” the service entry that once housed food deliveries and the ice chest. Last year the asbestos tiles were removed; this year contractors will install a new sub-floor and flooring, prepare and paint the room. This will provide storage space for both our own equipment and rentals dropped off by caterers for events. The funds will also allow us to purchase two large stainless steel worktables. The Society is working with the Winchester Board of Health on long-term plans and current practice so that events at the Sanborn House meet state requirements.

We received additional donations from our members who attended the Potluck Dinner at the Sanborn House in March. These will be set aside for plumbing improvements. Having an attractive, usable kitchen will improve our ability to make maximum use of the first floor rooms and contribute to the sustainability of operations. Additional contributions for this effort are always welcome.

Thank You for Supporting the Annual Appeal

Donations have continued to the 2008 Annual Appeal. The Society would like to thank all of the members and supporters of the Historical Society and the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center for their generous support of the Annual Appeal. The following donations that have been received since yearend 2008:

JoAnne Austad
 Hanne Beck
 Robert Bigelow and Kathryn Bigelow
 Edward Butler and Dorothy Butler
 John and Marie Dacey
 Frances Elliott
 Allan Eyden
 Whitney Gay
 Carol Keller and Peter Engeldrum

Michael and Judy Manzo
 Justin and Mary Anne Magee
 Joe Randolph and Kathryn Maffei
 Judith and Joshua Morris
 Deidre O'Connor
 Rick and Nancy O'Herron
 Peggy and Jack Roll
 Ian and Jennifer Swope
 Roger and Marilyn Wilson

Strawberry Festival and Classic Car Show

by Nancy Kilker



On June 6, 2009, the Winchester Historical Society will hold it's 2nd annual Strawberry Festival and Classic Car Show at the Sanborn House. The hours are from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. There will be tours of the house and strawberry shortcake served as well as coffee and lemonade.

Last year's festival was a huge success with many people enjoying the house. There were artists and painters on the lawn, children playing and 20 classic cars on display. Come meet your neighbors, tour the house and enjoy a few hours on the veranda (weather permitting) or inside the house if it rains.

Publisher's Note: Publication of the Black Horse Bulletin was delayed until after Town Day. It was another great day with even more people attending the Strawberry Festival and viewing the House. We thank our volunteers and hope you join us next year!



The Sanborn House entrance received a facelift thanks to artist Susan Vrotsos who designed and painted a trompe l'oeil canvas based on hand-carved woodwork in the interior. She and her husband George installed it in time for Town Day.

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

Boston Tree Preservation
 Century Bank
 Children's Own School
 Frank H. Duffy Inc.
 Hall & Sullivan
 Mary McKenna & Associates
 Nick's Painting Services
 W. Allan Wilde & Son Insurance Agency
 Winchester Art and Frame
 Winchester Cooperative Bank
 Wine Country

- Meetings** Board Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month (April 21, May 19, June 16) 7:30 PM, Music Room, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center. There will be no meetings in July. Meetings will resume on August 18. The public is welcome.
- Programs** April 8, 2009, 7:30 PM, Black Horse Village during the Revolution, Michael Bonislowski, Christopher Hurley
- May 7, 2009, 7:30 PM, Society Annual Meeting and True Crimes and Controversies, by author Diane Rapa-
port, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center
- May 30, 2009, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Spring Clean-up, Sanborn House and Grounds
- June 6, 2009, Town Day: Society Trolley Tours, Booth, and 2nd annual Strawberry Festival and Classic Car
show at the Sanborn House
- Volunteer Opportunities** The Society is looking for members able to give 3 hours/month on Wednesdays or Thursdays, to work at the Sanborn House. Tasks include showing the house to the public, answering questions, and helping with Society or House tasks. Training will be provided.
- Other volunteer options include helping with programs, building repairs, collections, publicity, website, and marketing.
- To volunteer or for more information, contact Nancy Schrock (781-721-1229; email: ncschrock@verizon.net)
or Carol Keller (781-721-4643; email: kellerck@aol.com)
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