



**From the President**

*by Gail Sjo*

On June 2, Town Meeting voted to place a ten-year Preservation Restriction on the Sanborn House. The contract with the Massachusetts Historical Commission for the matching grant can now be signed and work started with Red Hawk Studio on the feasibility study.

The Preservation Restriction requires any interior or exterior architectural changes be submitted to MHC, complying with its guidelines, rules, and regulations.

A Society prime goal is to ensure the Sanborn House is preserved, not torn down or architecturally compromised; the building is now safe for the next ten years. So while our goals for managing, restoring and permanently preserving the Sanborn House are still far off, we are one step closer.

Many thanks to all who have made this possible.

**April Program**

**The Clock Man Cometh!**

*by John Minniti*

Joseph Ives ... wooden works ... Eli Terry ... brass movements ... weight clocks... Seth Thomas ... OG clocks ... kitchen clocks ... Silas Hoadley ... school clocks ... mantel clocks...

These are only a few of the early clock makers and evolutionary changes that 75+ people heard about at the Griffin Museum of Photography. Winchester-native Stephen C. Sanborn talked about antique clocks and timepieces with an emphasis on Connecticut-made clocks.

Sanborn was born and raised in Winchester, where he apprenticed to Ernest Butterworth and Elliot Ward, who operated their clock business in an old wooden building on Waterfield Road. After completing his high school education, he went on to receive a bachelor's degree, then into the world of banking. Soon, however, his love of clocks led him back to the passion of his life.



*Stephen Sanborn answers questions following his presentation.*

Today, Stephen and his wife, Debbie, operate their business in Sunapee, New Hampshire. There, they enjoy a two-year backlog of clocks being restored for private

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**Publisher:** John Minniti

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**Officers and Directors 2005 - 2006**

<b>President</b>	Gail Sjo
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Carol Keller Nancy O'Herron
<b>Secretary</b>	Beverly Treen
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nancy Schrock

**Directors (though 2006)**

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Marilyn Preston	Sam Seidman

**Directors (though 2007)**

Elizabeth Potter	Laurie Minniti
Judy Thyson	Jean Twitchell

**Directors (through 2008)**

David Stirling	Paula Swartz
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collectors – many of them from the Winchester area – historical societies, museums, and even the State of New Hampshire. An active member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors since 1959, Sanborn served as President of the New England Chapter. He gives lectures and workshops for the Association, and was named an Old Timer in 2001.

The standing-room only crowd showered him with questions, none of which stumped the man who knew at the age of eight that he wanted to dedicate his life to clocks and their maintenance. In addition to the clocks, springs, bushings, and works he used to

demonstrate points he made during the lecture, he exhibited a picture he drew in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade depicting a clock store that he hoped he would own one day.

It was obvious that Stephen Sanborn is a man who loves what he is doing, is knowledgeable about the craft he has mastered, and enjoys sharing the history of clock making with anyone who is willing to listen.

April 5<sup>th</sup> was an evening that Winchester Historical Society members and their guests will not soon forget. But, alas, as Stephen said upon concluding his very interesting and informative presentation, “time’s up!”

## Welcome! New Members

by Paula Swartz

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

Jayne Rutherford and  
Steve Poulos  
Jim and Janet Jones  
Holly and Woody Wood  
Judy and Jerry Blaine  
Greta Hawley  
Mary Jo Adams  
William and Mary Belben  
Cheryl Wolfe  
Pauline Barklay  
Rep. Paul Casey  
Mr. and Mrs. John Harrington  
Judith and Henry Curtis, Jr.  
Grace Chase  
Jack and Peggy Twomey  
Mark and Wellner Tremallo  
Florence Gosselin  
Elizabeth D. Cregger  
Jessica Jones

## Town Day 2005 – Society-sponsored Events



Jim Donovan greets “tourists” for the Historical Society Trolley Tour.

Meeting at the Society Information Booth.



May Program

## Peanuts! Popcorn! Ball Parks and the Annual Meeting

by John Minniti

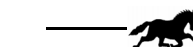
Amid snacks of peanuts, popcorn, and crackerjacks, about 50 people attended the May 18<sup>th</sup> Winchester Historical Society Annual Meeting, which was highlighted by a reprise of Matthew Bronski’s very popular presentation, “Fenway Park, Ebbets Field and the American Ideal: The Cultural Landscape of the Urban Major League Baseball Parks of 1909-1923.”

Following the election of the 2005-2006 Board of Directors, Gail Sjo reported on Society activities during the 2004-2005 year:

- ☐ Membership stands at 353.
- ☐ Public Educational Events, including presentations by Matthew Bronski, Jeffrey

Howe and Stephen Sanborn, oral history discussions by Phyllis O’Neill Williams and John Williams, and a book signing event by Mildred Allison and Ellen Knight.

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## Winchester Historical COMMISSION

by John Clemson

It has been suggested by the editors that a regular or semi-regular piece appear in the Bulletin updating its readers on the ongoing activities of the Winchester Historical Commission. There is also always the need, perceived by all, and with justification, to clarify the differences, varying roles, and similarities between the Winchester Historical Society and the Winchester Historical Commission, which I will henceforth refer to as the “Commission.”

The Commission is a seven-member board of the Winchester town government appointed by the Town Manager and approved by the Board of Selectmen. It was established in 1967 by state enabling legislation, chapter 40, section 8D of the General Laws, for “the preservation, protection and development of the historical or archaeological assets” of the town. If this sounds overly general or vague, it is deliberately so in

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order to allow individual towns throughout the Commonwealth to tailor their commissions to their own preservation needs. In Winchester the Commission has mainly concentrated on thoroughly documenting Winchester's historical assets by surveying almost 2000 structures and listing approximately 350 properties on the National Register of Historic Places. It also successfully introduced legislation in Town Meeting in 1995, with amendments in 2000, to establish a 6-month demolition delay by-law (Chapter 14).

More recently, with funding from the Planning Board, a preservation plan was completed by Gretchen Schuler, a professor in Boston University's Preservation Studies master's degree program. In the spring of 2004 the Commission was able to arrange to have students of Gretchen's and her colleague at B.U., Claire Dempsey, complete a detailed survey of historic buildings in the residential neighborhood located west of North Main Street.

The Commission is excited and thankful for this opportunity to explain its role to the members of the Society. In future editions we anticipate providing more detailed explanations of the demolition delay by-law and the findings and recommendations contained in the preservation plan.



### From the Archives: The State of the Town's Historical Resources

by Nancy Schrock

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Consultant Melissa Mannon, having concluded her five-month survey of the records and archives currently residing in the Town Hall, Winchester Public Library, and the Sanborn House, presented her sobering findings: in summary,

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- ❑ Members-only Events, including the fall field trip, New Year celebration, and spring potluck dinner.
- ❑ Publications, including the second edition of the *Children's History of Winchester*, by Mildred Allison and Ellen Knight, and additions to the *Architects of Winchester* series, edited by Maureen Meister, and the new *Black Horse Bulletin* team of John Minniti and Joe Harris.
- ❑ Grants, including a \$15,000 Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, a \$250 EnKa Society grant, a \$596 Winchester Cultural Council grant, and a \$5,000 Endowment for the Humanities grant (written by the Society) for the Town of Winchester.
- ❑ Sanborn House reuse, including negotiating a long-term lease with the Board of Selectmen (thanks to the volunteer help of Society legal advisor Stefan Nagel), and selecting Red Hawk Studio to conduct a feasibility study and help the Society prepare a business plan.

Ms. Sjo then presented awards of appreciation to long-time editor of the *Black Horse Bulletin*, Ellen Knight, and Past-President Carol Keller.



Past-President Carol Keller receives an award for service to the Society.



Ellen Knight is recognized for her long service as Editor of the *Black Horse Bulletin* by Society President, Gail Sjo.

Before Mr. Bronski gave his presentation, Treasurer Nancy Schrock reported the Society had a balance of \$21, 213.86 at the end of its fiscal year on April 30, 2005. This included \$11,355.85 in a certificate of deposit. During April, the Society withdrew \$15,000 from savings as its cost share for the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Grant, which is funding the architectural/feasibility study of the Sanborn House. Other significant expenditures during the year included printing costs for the *Children's History of Winchester* and two issues of *Architects of Winchester*.

The meeting was then turned over to Matthew Bronski, who delighted everyone with his unique presentation on early ball parks. After he gave this talk to the Society in September, 2004, he was asked if he would be willing to present it again; he replied "when the Red Sox win the World Series." Both the Red Sox and Bronski held up their end of the bargain, and the Society reaped the benefit at the Annual Meeting. (Please see the January - March issue of the *Black Horse Bulletin* for the excellent article about this presentation; the *Bulletin* is also available on the Society web site.)

## Society Potluck Dinner

(continued from page 3, Resources)

**Where Did You Go To School?***by John Clemson*

Since incorporating in 1850, the town of Winchester has had a strong tradition of educating its youth through the construction of high-quality, state-of-the-art school buildings. The notion of "state-of-the-art", however, was constantly shifting over time. Recurring changes in educational theory resulted in regular cycles of school construction that have continued into the present.

The first school to serve the area of South Woburn that would comprise the future town of Winchester was constructed in 1794 and was located on Washington Street near Harvard Street. A second school, constructed shortly thereafter, was located on Cambridge Street. These schools were small, primitive, and lacked any form of educational equipment other than, according to the well-known 19<sup>th</sup> century Woburn antiquarian, the Reverend Leander Thompson, "a very significant ruler and a well-remembered rod."

Immediately upon incorporation things began to change rapidly. A committee of prominent citizens was appointed to oversee new-school construction. The committee's recommendations resulted in the construction of four new buildings including space in one for a high school. This first building campaign cost the town \$4,000. At the time this sum amounted to 137.5% of the town's annual tax revenue and catapulted the town's spending on education into second-place statewide (just behind Brookline) in the amount spent per pupil and ninth place in spending in proportion to its tax revenues.

By 1890, after adding four additional schools, the town felt the need to completely revamp its physical plant again. Rather than renovate buildings that were likely too small and primitive, a plan was developed to replace them with larger, more specialized structures that could accommodate multiple classes. This

resulted in the construction of four new schools over a period of ten years. An example of this group remains at 10 Bacon Street, which was the old Mystic School. The High School (now Lincoln Elementary) was constructed toward the end of this campaign in 1906.

Within 20 years the science of school design had again changed to the extent that all of the relatively new, wood-frame buildings were deemed obsolete. It seems likely that their construction method played a role in their replacement as six new brick-masonry elementary schools were built during the decade of the 1920s.

The fate of the school buildings constructed during the Calvin Coolidge era building campaign should be well known to all who are alive in Winchester today. By the end of this decade (hopefully), the town will have replaced or completely renovated all of their replacements, which were built during yet another massive rebuilding campaign launched toward the end of the baby boom of the 1960s.



*Members enjoy the annual Society Potluck Dinner and John Clemson's presentation on Winchester schools.*

poor storage conditions, inadequate funding and staff, and no space for growth or users.

Her comprehensive report recommends improving storage conditions in the main vault immediately and a thorough survey of records throughout town as the next step for long-term planning. She also recommends that the basement of the Sanborn House be considered as the location for the Archival Center, which contains the original collections of the Historical Society. Ironically, the Sanborn House and later its carriage house were the first homes of the Society. These recommendations will be incorporated into the current architectural study of the Sanborn House.

Ms. Mannon's survey was funded by a Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was undertaken by the Collaborative for Documenting Winchester's History. Society Treasurer, Nancy Schrock, wrote the grant, and Town Clerk Carolyn Ward served as Project Director with Gail Sjo and Lynda Wills, Library Director. The Collaborative will be meeting during June to review the findings and set priorities for implementation.

A copy of the report is available at the Archival Center.

The Archival Center is located in 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.

### 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](http://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>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>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 &amp; James, Beaux Arts Splendor in a Suburban Setting</i> by Roger G. Reed	Free	_____	
MAPS / NOTEPADS	<i>1854 Map of Winchester (27" x 20")</i>	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>1875 Map of Winchester (17" x 11")</i>	\$2.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>1886 Map of Winchester (28 ½" x 22")</i>	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
	<i>1889 Map of Winchester (29" x 19")</i>	\$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:				\$ _____

### Thank You, Town Day Volunteers!

Every year members of the Winchester Historical Society volunteer to help run the booths and lead the trolley tours on Town Day. The Board extends a hearty "thank you" to the following volunteers:

- ❑ Society booth: Carol Keller, Judy Thyson, Mabs Harris, David Stirling, John Minniti, Laurie Minniti, Nancy O'Herron, Drew Botaro, and Peter Engeldrum.
- ❑ Trolley booth: Jim Donovan, Diane Donovan, John Minniti, Laurie Minniti, Mary Vitka, Joe Vitka, Pam Boerner, Carl Boerner, Alice Warren, Linda Whitehead, Randy Bairnsfather, and Bob Bairnsfather.
- ❑ Trolley tour leaders: Fred Lyman, Dan Hritzay, Bill O'Connor, John Clemson, Marge Harvey, Marilyn Preston, Nancy Schrock, and Peter Wilde.

### Notices and Upcoming Events

**Board Meetings** – Third Tuesday of the month (September 20, 2005): 7:30 P.M., Town Hall, Mystic Valley Room.

**Note:** The Board does *not* meet during July or August.

**Programs** – September, 2005: First fall program. (Date to be determined; watch for the meeting notice.)

**Note:** The Society does *not* conduct programs during July or August.

**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 *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 (tel: 781-719-9328; e-mail: jminniti@comcast.net) or Charles "Joe" Harris (tel: 781-729-6532; e-mail: charleyharris@yahoo.com).

