



WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BLACK HORSE BULLETIN

Volume 33, Number 4

October - December 2008

From the President

by Bob Colt

The Winchester Historical Society had its most busy summer ever with regular July and August meetings of the Board of Directors for the first time, and many committee gatherings to prepare for the expansive activities of the coming year. This fall and winter we will see an abundance of programs taking place and also major renovation projects on the Sanborn House. The membership and Board are constantly working to plan the needed improvements to the facility and still provide the many offerings that have traditionally been well attended.

I was pleased to sign a contract on behalf of the Winchester Historical Society for the needed replacement of most of the roof of the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center. Once the balustrades are removed by Pywell Construction Company, A & M Roofing will commence taking the old roof off

(continued on page 6, President)

Elections Brought Teddy Roosevelt to Winchester in 1884

by Ellen Knight

Like this year, 1884 was a presidential election year, one in which Theodore Roosevelt came to Winchester to make a speech at the Republican Rally in Lyceum Hall. At the time, he was 17 years away from becoming president and 16 away from being elected governor of New York following his famous exploits as a Rough Rider in 1898.

When he came to Winchester, on Oct. 28, 1884, he was just 26 and had hardly any national reputation, being an assemblyman for New York with only two years experience in politics. In fact, it was so early in his career that the Winchester newspaper ignored him entirely in reporting the Republican rally (probably the reason the event escaped mention in Henry Chapman's *History of Winchester*). The *Woburn Journal* simply gave his name as one of the announced speakers. Fortunately, Boston papers took some note of his speeches.



(continued on page 2, Roosevelt)

Inside this issue...

Historical Society Shares Its Collections	2
Baldwin Apples	3
New Baldwin Apple Orchard	3
Financial Update	4
Society Receives Grants	4
Sanborn House Turns 100	5
Note from the Editor	5
Update from the Building Committee	6
Society Publications	7

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Publisher: Nancy Schrock

The Black Horse Bulletin is published quarterly by the Winchester Historical Society. Subscription is free with membership.

Winchester Historical Society
PO Box 127 □ Winchester, Massachusetts 01890-0127
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www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org □ www.sanbornhouse.us

Officers and Directors 2008 - 2009

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Candace Van Aken



Anonymous painting of Mill Pond (site of Lincoln School today) from 1845.
In the Society's collection.

Winchester Historical Society Shares Its Collections

Few people realize that the Historical Society has a collection of artwork related to Winchester. Some items are displayed in Town Hall offices, others are stored in the Sanborn House and the vaults in Town Hall. Thanks to the Winchester Cultural Council, the Society has installed a hanging system in the Sanborn House which will allow artwork to be displayed without damaging the historically significant interior. To celebrate, selections from the collection will be displayed at the fall meeting on October 28th along with a talk by Ellen Knight on *Artists of Winchester's Past*. They will also be displayed at the Sanborn House birthday party on November 2nd.

The Society plans to make its collection open to the Town over the coming years as volunteers plan exhibits and catalog artifacts. If you would like to join the effort, please contact Nancy Schrock, <ncschrock@comcast.net>.



Annual Appeal

The Historical Society annual appeal is just around the corner. The Board has spent a busy and challenging year developing programs that interests the membership, while tackling the never ending issues that come with the care and keeping of the Sanborn House. Sometimes, honestly, we feel like we've inherited the building and the project, and other times it feels like we've been given a gift. When you receive your appeal letter, please consider giving us a gift to help with the work that is being accomplished at the Sanborn House. We're all facing challenging times - but with the Sanborn House, the entire community shares in the reward. Thank you for your consideration and look for our letter in the mail.

(continued from page 1, Roosevelt)

The year 1884 was the first in which Roosevelt entered the national political scene. In May he served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago and began forging a friendship with Henry Cabot Lodge, Chairman of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee and candidate for Congress. That October found him in Massachusetts stumping for the Republican ticket and for Lodge.

His Winchester speech was one of a series including Brooklyn, Malden, Melrose, New York, Newark, Winchester, and Elmira. The Massachusetts rallies focused principally on Lodge, who reportedly "received a royal reception [in Winchester] and made an argument as temperate as convincing."

Before the Winchester speeches began, the Stoneham Brass Band played several times in the square. The hall was reportedly packed with a crowd that heard from Lodge and Editor Clark of the *Boston Traveller*, the two speakers featured in the Winchester newspaper, and from the Hon. A. W. Bear of Boston and Roosevelt.

Like Lodge, Roosevelt took a turn at extolling his party – "There never has been a time that so much good has been done and that so much bad has been undone as in the past twenty-four years, and it has been done by the Republican Party." [quoted by Claude Moore Fuess in *The New England Quarterly* (July 1932)] – and criticizing the Democratic party – "We know that it is the party that tried to destroy the Union, that supported slavery, that favored greenbackers, that opposed putting the finances of the country on a sound basis, that has committed about every sin it was capable of committing for the last twenty-five years" (quoted in Carleton Putnam's *Theodore Roosevelt*).

The rally reportedly "closed with cheers for the candidates and playing by the band." However, the Republican candidate for President, James Blaine, lost to Grover Cleveland by 37 electoral votes. Though Lodge also lost, he later won and represented Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1887 to 1893 and in the Senate from 1893 to 1924. As a senator, Lodge was able to work again on party politics with Roosevelt, this time president of the country and Winchester's overwhelming choice in the election of 1904.

The Baldwin Apple

Excerpts from an article by Marshall Symmes quoting Charles Brooks in the July 1885 Winchester Records:

"The first tree producing this delicious fruit grew on the farm of Ebenezer Brooks, who bought the farm in 1715. It was afterward owned by his son Caleb, the father of Governor Brooks. The tree was about 600 feet south of the Old Black Horse Tavern in Winchester and three rods east of Main Street.

At the request of Governor Brooks I made a visit to that tree in 1813 and climbed it. It was very old and partly decayed but bore fruit abundantly. Around its trunk the woodpeckers had drilled as many six circles of holes, not larger than a pea, and from this most visible peculiarity the apples were called *woodpecker apples*. By degrees their name was shortened to *peckers* and during my youth they were seldom called by any other name.

How they came by their present appellation is this: Young Baldwin of Woburn was an intimate friend of young Thompson. One day as they were passing by the woodpecker tree, they stopped to contemplate the tempting red cheeks on those loaded boughs, and the result of such contemplations was the usual one; they took and tasted. Sudden and great surprise was the consequence. They instantly exclaimed to each other that it was the finest apple they had ever tasted.

Some years after this, Colonel Baldwin took several scions to a public nursery, and from this circumstance they named the apple after him. In the gale of 1815, this parent tree fell; but few parents have left behind so many flourishing and beloved children."



Visit the Sanborn House!

The Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center now has "open hours" every Wednesday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM to offer access to the public. If you would like a tour, want to see the magnificent interior, or just want to ask a question, drop in. Sue Clark, the Events and Facilities Manager will greet you. If you want to visit at another time, please call 781-721-0135 and make an appointment.

A New Baldwin Apple Orchard For the Sanborn House

by Sue Clark

The Girl Scouts of Troop 1474-5 approached the Society this past spring with a suggestion to re-establish an apple orchard on the grounds of the Sanborn House as their Bronze Award project. The Bronze Award is the highest honor for a Junior Girl Scout; five girls from the troop will earn their award by researching, planning, planting, and caring for the orchard. Peter Wild, a Certified Arborist and owner of Boston Tree Preservation, enthusiastically accepted a request to be their advisor.

The troop began their project by taking cuttings from a historic Baldwin apple tree on the property of the Wyman family home on Everell Rd. The tree is believed to be the oldest Baldwin apple tree in Winchester, well over one hundred years. While educational the scion cuttings were not successful. Mr. Wild graciously donated three young 'Golden Delicious' trees to get the orchard started. They were planted in June and are thriving in their new home just to the left of the Sanborn House. The 'Golden Delicious' variety was chosen for its resistance to disease and insect damage. The new trees join an existing old Baldwin apple tree already on the property. The Scouts hope to acquire two more young Baldwin apple trees in the spring to finish off the orchard.

Members of the Downes family, who owned and lived in the Sanborn House from 1920's to the 1940s, remembered that a Baldwin apple orchard once stood on the current site of the Ambrose Elementary school. The family shares fond memories of their childhood when fall meant picking apples, placing them in barrels in the basement, and bringing apples up in the wine lift (elevator) in the Oak Room of the House after dinner each night.

The Winchester Historical Society would like to thank and congratulate Susan Wilson, Rachel Diamond, Kate Clark, Chloe McCarthy and Elma Joseph for all of their hard work on this rewarding project as well as their co-troop leaders, Sue Clark and Ellen Wilson.

The Baldwin apple orchard will officially be dedicated to the memory of Jon Fischbach who served the town of Winchester through his tireless efforts to improve the environment, and was an active supporter of the Girl Scouts of Winchester. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2009.



Peter Wild shows the Girl Scouts how to plant the apple trees.

Financial Update

When the Winchester Historical Society signed a lease with the Town of Winchester for the restoration and use of the Sanborn House as an historical and cultural center, it assumed financial responsibilities to the town, state and federal governments as well as its members. Financial oversight is provided by its Finance Committee, led by Drew Bottaro and treasurer Douglas Marmon. Since 2006, its books have been reviewed by Stone and Company, LLC; reports were submitted to the IRS and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We will include annual financial reports in future copies of the Black Horse Bulletin.

Winchester Historical Society STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION*

ASSETS as of December 31, 2007

Cash / checking - Society	\$22,314	
Investments - Society	\$12,629	\$34,943
Cash / checking - Sanborn House	\$88,157	
Investments - Sanborn House	\$61,743	<u>\$149,900</u>
MONETARY ASSETS		\$184,843
Contributions receivable		\$25,513
Prepaid expenses		\$253
Furniture and fixtures		\$7,411
Leasehold improvements		<u>\$37,299</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		\$255,319

REVENUE for year ended December 31, 2007

Membership dues	\$10,460
Program income	\$89
Sales	\$1,491
Rental income	\$3,525
Contributions - Society	\$13,610
Contributions - Sanborn	\$81,054
Interest income	<u>\$2,857</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$113,086

EXPENSES for year ended December 31, 2007

Educational Programs	\$5,925
Publications	\$5,874
Administration	\$2,308
Sanborn House operations	\$7,332
Sanborn House improvements	\$21,144
Fundraising	<u>\$2,466</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,049

*As reviewed by the accounting firm of Stone and Company, LLC and submitted to the IRS.

The Society Receives Grants

The Society has received multiple grants over the last few months and would like to acknowledge and thank the donors.

The *Winchester Cultural Council* (with money from the Massachusetts Cultural Council) provided an \$800 grant toward the fall program on artists of Winchester. This grant including a fee for the speaker, Ellen Knight, and money to purchase an exhibit system for installation in all rooms on the ground floor. The system will enable the Society to exhibit of paintings by local artists from its collection, as well as make possible future displays.

The *En Ka Society* gave a \$2560 grant to fund two introductory workshops for Winchester non-profit organizations covering how to manage records and archives. The workshops will be lead by archives consultant, Melissa Mannon of Archives and Information Consulting with the assistance of Nancy Schrock from the Historical Society. The grant also supported the purchase of dataloggers that track temperature and relative humidity. These meters are in place in the basement of the Sanborn House collecting data for long term planning for collections and archive storage.

The *Rotary Club of Winchester* supported the Society with a \$1900 grant to purchase audio-visual (AV) equipment to enhance programming at the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center. We now have an LCD projector, screen, and computer available. These will enable digital presentations such as PowerPoint talks and DVD movies at the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center.

The *Institute of Museum and Library Services* and the *American Association for State and Local History* selected the Society as a recipient of the "Connecting to Collections Bookshelf" grant. This includes free references books, DVDs and other materials covering a range of topics essential to the management of historical collections as part of a national effort to improve their care. These will be available to members

**The Winchester Historical Society
Proudly Invites You
to the
100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
of the
SANBORN HOUSE**

**November 2, 2008
Sunday, 3-5 P.M.
Sanborn House
15 High Street**



Suggested Birthday Gift: \$50/\$75/\$100

RSVP by October 22, 2008 to:

**Laurie Minniti
(781) 729-9328**

**Send Checks to: Winchester Historical Society
PO Box 127, Winchester, MA 01890**

**A Note from the Editor
by Carol Keller**

Have you noticed the new publisher listed on the front page of the recent Black Horse Bulletin? We all need to thank the past publisher John Minniti for his outstanding leadership and help. He first redesigned and upgraded the format and selected new software for our quarterly newsletter, and then served a long tenure as the publisher from the January 2005 until the July 2008 edition. John has been an inspiration to the Society for what a professional newsletter is today and has set a high standard for us to continue to fulfill.

In addition I would like to thank those who have been editors now and during this period — Charles “Joe” Harris, Cynthia Latta, Dinah Voorhies, and Nancy O’Herron. Of course the newsletter would not exist at all if the many writers were not so generous with their time and diligently provide the copy. Thank you. And thanks also to Nancy Schrock for starting as our new publisher and taking on the *In Design* software challenge in the last edition.

Sanborn House Turns 100

by Candace Van Aken

The Winchester Historical Society proudly invites you to come to the “100th Birthday Celebration” of the Sanborn House on Sunday, November 2, 2008 from 3 to 5 P.M. at the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center, 15 High Street.

The house was originally built for Oren Cheney Sanborn, the younger son of James Sanborn, co-founder of Chase & Sanborn Company, importers of coffee and tea in Boston. Designed in a neoclassical style with a commanding location on a hill overlooking Winchester Center, the Sanborn’s built the house at a cost of \$250,000.

The house was sold in 1921 and was later owned by the family of J. Edward Downes. J. E. Downes, owner of the Downes Lumber Company, was a merchant doing business in Boston. Some of the Downes children who grew up in the house will be among the distinguished guests for this historic celebration.

The Society will be thanking members of the Massachusetts House and Senate—in particular the support of outgoing Representative Paul Casey and our Senator Pat Jehlen. These government officials and others have helped voice the importance of preserving this home as an important link to Winchester’s history. Other special guests will include Town officials and Society members who have been instrumental in helping to maintain and restore this historic building.

Come, join the fun, enjoy the magnificent house, re-connect with old friends or meet some new ones that share an enthusiasm for Winchester’s historic past. Cider, wine, fruit, cheese and a birthday cake will be served as we toast the long history of the building and its future.



Sanborn House during removal of the balustrades

Update from the Building Committee

by David Stirling

Note from the editor: The Society has found that replacing the roof for the Sanborn House which is the largest building project to date, is not as straight forward as putting a new roof on a simple home. The following updates put in context some of the complexities and challenges present for a historic building under a preservation restriction, owned by the Town, and shared with the Ambrose school property.

On August 14, 2008, Building Committee Chair David Stirling met at the Sanborn House with Winchester Historical Commission member John Clemson to review the roof design drawings and specifications and discuss details for a new external copper gutter system for the third floor roof. The design objective was to replace the problematic original detail, which utilized an internal gutter system, contributing to severe water infiltration into the building. John offered to review the proposed solution in light of the Massachusetts Historical Commission's objective for restorations; changes must be reversible so that buildings can be restored to original conditions in the future, if desired. John has made contact with the Commission, stating his recommendation for acceptance, and is awaiting a decision.

On August 14th David also met with Jack Sheehan of Mueller-Sheehan-Sullivan Sales of Jamestown, Rhode Island, manufacturer's representative for Icynene thermal insulation. Icynene is a highly effective thermal foam material that insulates against heat loss or gain as well as reduces warm air leakage and cold air infiltration in winter months. In summer it has the opposite effect, keeping cool air inside the structure and hot, humid air outside. On this day, and on a subsequent followup date accompanied by an insulation contractor and Bob Colt, Mr. Sheehan reviewed the conditions in the building for the appropriateness of his product. Mr. Sheehan also plans to seek the manufacturer's donation of a portion of the building insulation needed.

A contract has been finalized between The Winchester Historical Society and A&M Roofing Services, LLC of Andover. A package of shop drawings has been submitted to the project designer, Gale Associates, Inc. of Weymouth, MA. and has been approved as noted.

To get the project off to a good start, a pre-construction meeting was held at the Sanborn House on Thursday, September 25th. The purpose of the meeting was for all parties to meet and coordinate construction procedures and schedule. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to the society, the town and the school department, including access and hours of operation. Attending the meeting were Jon Lindberg, principal of Gale Associates, Craig Brecht of A&M, Andrew Pywell of Pywell Contracting Services of Winchester and Bob Colt, Sue Clark and David Stirling of the WHS. Pywell Contracting Services has a contract with the Town of Winchester to remove and store the existing wood balustrade for future restoration and re-installation. The balustrade must be removed prior to commencement of roof work. Coordination between the two contractors was an important component of the pre-construction meeting. Representatives of the society stressed the importance of starting the project at the earliest possible date, considering the anticipated weather outlook in November.

(continued from page 1, President)

replacing it. Most of the roof work will be done between October 27 and the end of November.

A number of community organizations are already enjoying renting the Sanborn House for their non-profit, business or family functions. The gilded ceiling of the dining room, the elegance of the first floor, and the friendly and reasonable atmosphere of the House have quickly attracted community functions and meetings to 15 High Street. If you are a part of any local organizations or are looking for a unique setting for your next family event, call the Winchester Historical Society at 781-721-0135.

The Sanborn House celebrates its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, November 2, 2008 from 3 to 5 PM with a festive Birthday Celebration. Be part of the merriment and celebratory program by putting November 2, 2008 on your calendar and letting us know that you will be with us and supporting the 100 year old Sanborn House and our 75 year old Winchester Historical Society.

The Winchester Historical Society is always seeking volunteers who will help with programs, care of the House and on our many active committees. If you have a little time and some solid inclination to give back to your organization and your community, just let us know and you will be involved. I sincerely thank all those who are already giving their time, energy and resources to the betterment of the Winchester Historical Society, the Sanborn House and the Town of Winchester. As we face more difficult financial times, the support of our members becomes even more important.

Second Renewal Notices Mailed

For those of you who missed the spring cycle, a second renewal notice was recently mailed. Remember what membership brings you—program and event mailings, the *Black Horse Bulletin* quarterly newsletter, invitations to member-only events, free Architectural series pamphlets, and reduced prices on other Society publications. Take time to return the membership form and don't miss out on any of the 2008-2009 events or benefits.

Winchester Historical Society Order Form

Please use this order form to purchase **items from the Society Store**. Send the completed form, together with check for the total amount, to the Winchester Historical Society, PO Box 127, Winchester, MA 01890-0127. Attention: Book Sales Department.

	Title	Price	Quantity	Cost
B O O K S	<i>A Children's History of Winchester, Massachusetts</i> by Mildred Allison; updated by Ellen Knight	\$10.00		\$ _____
	<i>Winchester, Massachusetts, The Architectural Heritage of a Victorian Town</i>	\$20.00		\$ _____
	<i>Artists of Winchester, 1850-1950</i> by Ellen Knight	\$6.00		\$ _____
	<i>Wright-Locke Farm: A History in Pictures, by Ellen Knight</i>	\$10.00		\$ _____
S E R I E S	<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	\$2.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alexander Esty, A Romanesque Church Design: Image and Meaning</i> by Nina Harkrader	\$2.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Theodore Voelckers, A Picturesque Public Hall for a New Town</i> by Roger G. Reed	\$2.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Herbert J. Kellaway, Linking Water, Parks and Parkways in the Olmsted Tradition</i> by Julie Khuen	\$2.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hill & James, Beaux Arts Splendor in a Suburban Setting</i> by Roger G. Reed	\$2.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Frost and Raymond, Suburbia and the Single-Family House of the 1920's</i> by Nancy Gruskin	\$2.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>John Kutts: Rare Drawings and Records for an 1830 House</i> by Roger G. Reed	\$2.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Robert Coit, Houses and Public Buildings in an Age of Suburban Growth</i> by Ellen Spencer	\$2.00		\$ _____
	M A P S / O T H E R S	<i>1854 Map of Winchester</i> (27" x 20")	\$25.00	
<i>1875 Map of Winchester</i> (17" x 11")		\$10.00		\$ _____
<i>1886 Map of Winchester</i> (28 ½" x 22")		\$25.00		\$ _____
<i>1889 Map of Winchester</i> (29" x 19")		\$25.00		\$ _____
<i>1941 Ernest Dudley Chase Pictorial Map of Winchester</i>		\$25.00		\$ _____
Notepads - small (4 ½" x 5 ¼") (see www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org for notepad designs; please specify): _____		\$2.50 per pad		\$ _____
Notepads - large (5" x 7") (see www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org for notepad designs; please specify): _____		\$3.25 per pad		\$ _____
Shipping and Handling:				\$5.00
TOTAL:				\$ _____

Note: Maps can be also be purchased at Winchester Art and Frame, and books are available at Book Ends, both in Winchester, Massachusetts

Notices and Upcoming Events

- Meetings** Board Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month (October 21, November 18, December 16) 7:30 PM, Music Room, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center
- Programs** October 28, 7:30 PM – “Artists from Winchester’s Past” an illustrated talk by historian Ellen Knight accompanied by an exhibit of artwork from the Historical Society’s collections, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center
- October – House Tour postponed until 2009
- November 2, 2008, 3:00-5:00 PM, – “100th Birthday Celebration of the Sanborn House”, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center. Includes an exhibit of artwork from the Historical Society’s collections
- October 18, 9:30-12:30, at the Sanborn House,
November 6, 10:00-1:00 at Winchester Public Library
- Workshops on “Managing Records and Archives for Winchester Non-Profit Organizations”
- Pre-registration is required as space is limited, Please call Nancy Schrock at 781-721-1229 if your organization would like to attend.
- January 6, 2009 - Holiday Celebration.
- Help Wanted** The Society has many volunteer opportunities. Some tasks can be done at home, others in the Sanborn House. You can help with our programs and with cataloging our collections. For more information, contact Nancy Schrock (781-721-1229; email: ncschrock@comcast.net) or Carol Keller (781-721-4643; email: kellerck@aol.com)

