



## From the President

by Bob Colt

It has been a very busy and eventful year for the Winchester Historical Society as the Board of Directors rallied its members in seeking a permanent preservation restriction for the Sanborn House. The November 2nd Winchester Town Meeting unanimously approved a motion allowing the Board of Selectmen to finalize the Sanborn House preservation restriction in perpetuity, which will be a great asset as the Winchester Historical Society seeks state, federal and private funds.

The Society would like to thank the 165 Town Meeting members who voted and showed their faith and

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## Preservation Restriction Approved

by Ellen Knight

In November, Town Meeting approved a permanent preservation restriction for the Sanborn House, a tool to improve the Society's chances of getting grants to help with the Sanborn's restoration.

In 2006, when the Society signed a lease with the town to restore and manage the Sanborn House as an historical and cultural center for the community, the town conveyed a five-year preservation restriction to the Massachusetts Historical Society. Seeing the expiration date approaching, the Society requested that the restriction become permanent.

"Restoring and maintaining the house requires significant resources," Nancy Schrock told Town Meeting. The Society has taken in about \$275,000 over the past three years and, with the added contribution of labor and materials, has made substantial improvements inside and out. The Society needs an additional \$1.2 million to continue the restoration work. Although the Society secured an allocation of \$125,000 in State funds, that funding was later lost to State cutbacks.

State and federal agency grants and private foundations are potential sources for funding, Schrock said, but "competition is intense."

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*(from the president - continued from page 1)*

trust in our efforts to restore the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center to its former grandeur. Nancy Schrock, Betsy Cregger and I spoke before the Board of Selectmen on four occasions. Selectmen Roger Berman, Forrest Fontana, Tom Howley, Jim Johnson, Brian O'Connor and Town Manager Mel Kleckner gave their careful review, unanimous vote and continued support for which we are most grateful. The School Committee and the Winchester Finance Committee also unanimously supported the permanent preservation restriction and we thank them.

The Winchester Historical Society has been conducting a search for its first Executive Director. The Society seeks a dynamic professional who will be responsible for the operations of the Society, including coordinating development efforts, expanding membership and volunteers and outreach to the Winchester community as well as managing the Sanborn House. The search brought in many extremely talented individuals. Be at the Society's January 10th Holiday Party to meet our new Executive Director.

Please check out the new and improved Web sites of the Historical Society at [www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org) and [www.sanbornhouse.org](http://www.sanbornhouse.org) and let us know what you think. Under the watchful eye of Board members Carol Keller and Doug Marmon, and designed by volunteer Margo Attaya, the Web sites give you a fuller appreciation of all that is blossoming in the Sanborn House and the Winchester Historical Society. We can always use volunteers in our many efforts and we look forward to having you become more deeply involved in all we do. Also, don't forget to check out the rental of the Sanborn House as you consider the location for your next family gathering, organizational program or special event. The Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center is truly a unique Winchester setting and a friendly place to be.

Now is a good time for you to consider helping the Winchester Historical Society in its Annual Appeal to continue the momentum in our programming, outreach, and fund-raising. In these challenging times, your continued encouragement and generous support is much appreciated and needed as we build on the past and look toward the future. Thank you! Enjoy the Holidays.



*The start of the new carriage road walking path is noted by a sign describing the history.*

## Restored Carriage Road

Joshua New for his Eagle Scout project researched, organized and then brought back to reality parts of the carriage road that lead from the intersection of High and Cambridge Street to the Carriage House, part of the Sanborn estate. Originally part of the landscape of the 1908 Sanborn estate, it employed large sweeping loops to ascend the hill; over the intervening 100 years parts of it remained but much had become overgrown and part of a wooded area.

New organized over 30 volunteers from Troop 507 and the community to help clear the overgrowth, removed over 20 trash bags of broken glass discarded on the path, and removed graffiti from a stone staircase/ arch which is part of the path. They also marked off a 60 plus foot portion of the path with stones to highlight its location and installed a sign describing the history and location of the road. An old spring was also cleared of mud, leaves and junk that had accumulated over the decades. Take the time to explore the delightful, restored path—it starts just below the Sanborn House (to the left) and is marked by the stones and the sign.

Josh New and the Society would like to thank Martignetti Enterprises Inc. in Woburn for donating the stone and the Department of Public Works for a special chemical used to remove graffiti and for removing the trash.

## Information Board

For his Eagle Scout project, Thomas Swanton researched, designed, constructed, and installed a free-standing information board located in front of the Sanborn House by the driveway. The entire project was carried out by volunteers who were coordinated and directed by Tom, who also provided the required carpentry, finishing and roofing skills. The board provides an aesthetically pleasing means of providing information to the public about the Sanborn House, the Historical Society and upcoming events. It was designed to match the architectural character of the Sanborn House. Tom is a Scout with Winchester Boy Scout Troop 503.

Tom Swanton and the Society would like to thank the Winchester Rotary Club for its grant and Stirling/ Brown Architects for advice on design and construction.



Society member Margo Attaya checks the new information board in front of the Sanborn House

## Scouts Help the Sanborn House Grounds

The Sanborn House grounds now have an apple orchard with stock from original Baldwin apples trees, a walking path that documents the original carriage road from Cambridge Street, and an information board at the front of the House tailored to match the Sanborn House. The Society is grateful for these fine contributions by several troops of Winchester Scouts.



The Scouts of Troop 1475 featured delicious apple confections at their bake sale as part of the Baldwin Apple Festival.

## Apple Orchard

by Ellen Wilson

The Girl Scouts of Troop 1475 hosted a Baldwin Apple Festival in October, complete with contests, tours and a bake sale featuring delicious confections made from - guess what?- apples.

For their Bronze Award the Scouts planted an orchard on the grounds of the Sanborn House in 2008. There are now sixteen thriving Baldwin-apple trees growing on the spot where an orchard stood in the early 1900s. The Baldwin species was originally found in Wilmington, MA. Col. Loammi Baldwin of Woburn became fond of the unique taste of the Baldwin and was responsible for its popularity and wide propagation in this area. Today, few descendants of the original Baldwin remain, including the solitary one in the current orchard and one in the back yard of the Wyman home on Everell Road. With the assistance of Peter Wild of Boston Tree Preservation, the scouts propagated scions from the Wyman tree.



On Sunday, December 20, the troop will host a dedication ceremony at the Sanborn apple orchard to officially name the orchard "The Jonathan Fishbach Orchard."

The girls in Troop 1475, all eight graders, are Rachel Diamond, Elma Joseph, Kate Clark and Susan Wilson and are led by Sue Clark and Ellen Wilson.

## More Communication Channels

by Carol Keller

Take a tour of the Sanborn House! Click on "House Tour" on the new Web site for the Sanborn House at [www.sanbornhouse.org](http://www.sanbornhouse.org). Check for the next program of the Winchester Historical Society on



[www.wincentral.org](http://www.wincentral.org). And did you receive your email reminder for the Skinner program "What's It Worth?" These are now available channels of communication from the Society to members and the world.

Thanks first needs to go to local Web/graphic designer Margo Attaya for the New Sanborn House Web site. Included are on-line availability of rental information, and photo shows of the House interior and of the House restorations. News articles and opportunities for volunteers are also presented. Keep checking for new additions to the site.

The Society would like to thank the volunteers who have designed and maintained our Web sites in the past: Diane Donovan and Peter Engeldrum for the Society Web site; Ed Davis and Cynthia Latta for the Sanborn House Web site. They donated many dedicated volunteer hours to design and maintain the sites.

WinCentral is a new Winchester organization whose goal is to encourage town citizens to spend their time and money in Winchester. Its Web site offers a Calendar of Winchester-only events. Check it daily for details on Society functions. The Society thanks the organization for making postings free for non-profits.

And the Society is now providing program reminder emails to Society members using an email delivery service. Over 100 members are using the service—are you? Please send your email address to [president@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:president@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org) stating you want to receive notices by email and whether you also want to continue to receive them by regular mail.

Using these new channels it is now easy to remain up to date on Society activities and news.

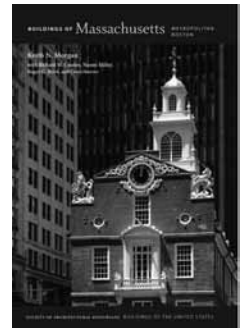
## Projector Wanted!

Some 16mm films were donated to the Archival Center. We would like to view them to see if they are worth transferring to digital form. If anyone has or knows of someone or an organization which may have a 16mm film projector we can borrow, please contact the Archives at [archives@winchester.us](mailto:archives@winchester.us).

## New Boston Area Architecture Book

by Carol Keller

Are you looking for a gift for someone who loves architecture and local history? Or are these your interests? Local architectural historian Maureen Meister authored several sections in the new book, *Buildings of Massachusetts: Metropolitan Boston* edited by Boston University Professor Keith Morgan, and published by the Society of Architectural



Historians and the University of Virginia Press, 2009. Professor Morgan is Professor of Art History and Director of Architectural Studies at Boston University

The book, written by a team of leading scholars, contains a significant amount of new research about our region's architecture. It is comprehensive, covering Boston as well as the communities throughout the metropolitan area. Maureen authored the entries on Winchester and Woburn. She also authored some entries on the Harvard campus.

Maureen teaches at Tufts University in the Department of Art and Art History, and is author of two books, *H. H. Richardson: The Architect, His Peers, and Their Era*, and *Architecture and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Boston: Harvard's H. Langford Warren*. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Winchester Historical Society, and edits the series *Architects of Winchester, Massachusetts* for the Society.

Signed copies of the book are available at Book Ends ([www.bookendswinchester.com](http://www.bookendswinchester.com)).



## Appraisals by Skinner

by Bob Tedesco

The Winchester Historical Society in October, hosted an appraisal event by Skinner, Inc. of Boston, one of the leading auction houses for antiques and fine art and the only major auction house headquartered in New England.



The event brought more than 60 attendees to the Sanborn House. All were treated to an educational and entertaining two hour presentation by Stuart Whitehurst, Vice President and Senior Appraiser for Skinner. The presentation before the eager crowd was conducted much in the same fashion as the very popular PBS antique appraisal television series. Over 40 items were verbally appraised, from books to oil paintings, porcelain to sterling silver, and just about everything in between.

With the great success of the event the Society hopes to include Skinner in future programs offered to members and the general public. "It provided a wonderful forum to not only showcase the beautiful Sanborn House, but also brought many new faces to a Society program," said Robert Tedesco, Board member and Chair for the event.

Plan now for next years repeat event—many folks commented that they needed more time to corral their treasures. Perhaps you should plan ahead now!



Save the Date!

## *Holiday Party!*

Join your friends for the  
Winchester Historical Society  
Holiday Party on Sunday, January 10th,  
2-4pm at the Sanborn House.

Meet and greet the Society's new  
Executive Director, Rebekah Beaulieu!

Holiday goodies, punch and wine will be  
provided. Members and their guests only.



## Of the People: Faces of the Civil War

The Winchester Historical Society and the Friends of the Winchester Public Library will jointly sponsor the program, "Of the People: Faces of the Civil War." The date is February 9, 2010 at the Lincoln and Lee Room, Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington Street at 7:00 PM. This program includes an exhibit of photographs from the Medford Historical Society's world-renowned collection of images from the Civil War.

Jim Kiely, a five-year member of the Medford Historical Society's Board of Directors, and Barbara Kerr, Director of its collections, will describe the origins of the photographs, how they were discovered, and what they tell us about the Civil War.



*The Oren Sanborn's original dining room furniture now in Mr. Stinson's possession*

## Dining in the Grand Style

*by Nancy Schrock*

Several months ago, the Society received an email from David Stinson of Silver Spring, Maryland. He asked, "Would you happen to have any pictures of the furniture that used to be in the dining room when the Sanborn House was owned by Oren Sanborn? I suspect that the dining room set I have (two china cabinets, a small buffet, a large hunting board, large dining room table (extends to 14 feet with all nine leaves), and 10 chairs, may have come from the Sanborn House. According to my family history, in the early 1920s, my great grandmother purchased this dining room set at an auction held on the grounds of what later became the Marycliff Academy."

We replied enthusiastically and Mr. Stinson sent ten pictures. Not only does the ornate carving on the furniture resemble the woodwork over the mantelpiece, but the chairs are mates to the armchairs currently beside the fireplace in the Sanborn House! It is exciting to have confirmation that our chairs are original and also to have examples of the original leather so that we can replicate it when we are ready to reupholster the chairs.

The set has traveled since leaving 15 High Street. Mr. Stinson related, "The furniture originally was moved to my great grandmother's house on Pine Ridge Road in Medford, then to my grandfather's house on Argilla Road in Ipswich, then to my parent's house in Potomac, Maryland, and finally to my house in Silver Spring. One of the largest pieces is the 8 foot long hunting board and it had to be kept in my parents' basement."

While we won't be able to return the furniture to its original site, we will print out the pictures, add them to our photo archives of the Sanborn House, and display them when we give tours of the Sanborn House. Thank you, David Stinson, for helping us envision how the elegant coffered dining room would have looked when the Sanborns entertained!

*(Preservation Restriction-continued from page 1)*

Illustrating her point by reference to specific grant-awarding groups and their criteria, she said a permanent preservation restriction significantly increases the chances of getting grants, as does a record of community support.

Selectman Tom Howley said that the Board of Selectmen recommended approval. Peter Cheimets reported that the Finance Committee was in favor. (The School Committee also voted its support at its own meeting.) Following a few questions, Town Meeting passed the motion with a nearly unanimous vote.



## A Wedding on the Veranda:

August 8th was a special day for Ross and Tanya Grifkin, as well as the Sanborn House, the site of their wedding. The weather was beautiful and the veranda was the perfect size for the thirty people who attended.



## Learning More About Our Neighbors

by Nancy Schrock

Writer and speaker Dee Morris presented “Winchester: Medford’s Lost Suburb” at the Sanborn House for the Society’s November program. Her lively anecdotal style brought to life a missing piece of Winchester’s history. Although we tend to think of Winchester as breaking away from Woburn in 1851, in fact our town was carved out of Medford as well.

Not all were pleased by these changes. Citizens who lived in the area from Symmes Corner to the Brooks Estate signed a petition against the transfer of land, but Winchester had powerful friends in the state legislature. Incorporation passed in less than a year.

As part of the original Charlestown land grant, both Medford and Winchester shared territory and historical figures in the early days, but their development could not have been more different. Medford was originally a plantation while Winchester was a group of small villages. Both were affected by waterways and shared the Mystic Lakes, but for Medford, the Mystic River became the site of shipyards; for Winchester, the Aberjona River became the site of factories. With ships and the wealth from a large plantation, Medford became part of the West Indies trade, and rum was made – and consumed in great quantities. Winchester remained bucolic, combining farming with small mills and factories.

These differences are evident still. Medford is a city of 55,000 and Winchester a town of 21,000. Yet the differences seem minimal along the borders where West Medford shares the Middlesex Fells and the Mystic Lakes, and the beautiful conservation land of the Brooks Estate melds into Winchester’s Town Forest.

## Annual Appeal Update

by Betsy Cregger

Multiple volunteers gathered in early November for a pleasant and productive evening at the Sanborn House. First, they enjoyed a pleasant repast and toast to the Society’s recent success in achieving the unanimous vote for a permanent historical restriction at the Winchester Fall Town Meeting. The highlight of the evening, however, was the camaraderie shared through the conversation and work as members spent four hours in writing notes to past and potential donors to the Annual Appeal, and in readying the appeal mailing.

The Annual Appeal provides valuable funding for the Society’s programs and activities that include events such as historical presentations, October’s Appraisal event whose popularity may make it an annual event, and annual Town Day festivities. Due to the Society’s increased operating costs associated with the operation of the Sanborn House, the Annual Appeal is an integral part of the Society’s financial operations. If you have received the mailing and have not yet responded, please return your tax-deductible contribution today.

If you did not receive the mailing or it has somehow found its way out of your “to-do” pile, a copy of the Appeal letter and donor form is available on the Society Web site.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



- Meetings** Board meetings are held in the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center on the third Tuesday of the month (December 15, January 19, February 16) at 7:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.
- Programs** **Holiday Party** - Sunday, January 10, 2:00-4:00pm, Sanborn Historical and Cultural Center, Meet the Society's new Executive Director
- Of the People: Faces of the Civil War** - Tuesday, February 9, 7:00-8:45pm, Jim Kiely and Barbara Kerr, Lincoln and Lee Room, Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington Street (*co-sponsored with the Friends of the Library*)
- Leather City: Woburn and Winchester as Tanning Towns** - March presentation of an award-winning DVD produced by Woburn Historical Society, additional commentary by a Winchester and a Woburn historian
- Potluck Dinner** - Sunday, April 11, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center
- Annual Meeting: "Winchester's Architectural History, Part 2"** - May, John McConnell
- EnKa Parade** - Saturday, May 15
- Sanborn Spring Clean-Up** - Saturday, May 22
- Town Day**: Saturday, June 5
- 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, collections, or the Sanborn House. For more information, contact Nancy Schrock (781-721-1229} email: ncschrock@comcast.net); or Carol Keller (781-721-4643; email: kellerck@aol.com)

