

# WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BLACK HORSE BULLETIN

Volume 35, Number 4

October - December 2010

### From the President

by Bob Colt

2010 has been a very good year for the Winchester Historical Society and the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center. It was a year that began with the hiring of our first Executive Director, Rebekah Beaulieu, who has provided enthusiasm, professionalism and excellent leadership in all we do. There is a wide array of programs, rentals and meetings happening inside the four walls of the 102-year-old historic Sanborn House.

It was a year in which we received a \$45,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to provide a new mahogany and glass front entrance, which will replicate the original double door of 1908. There will also be a new entry walk and new lighting. In the spring we will replace

(continued on page 2)

### KISSS (Keep it simple, start small)

by Nancy Schrock and Linda Whitehead

Over fifty people gathered at the Sanborn House on September 27th to hear Sally Zimmerman, Manager of Preservation Services for Historic New England, speak on *Energy Retrofits and the Older House: Weighing Risks and Opportunities*. She cautioned that we should expect legislation that will mandate more stringent requirements for home energy efficiency, comparable to that enacted in ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). Renovations and additions will trigger compliance to these regulations for the 7% of

*Sally Zimmerman, Manager of Preservation Services for Historic New England, explains documents available to increase home energy efficiency. (Photo courtesy of John Minniti)*



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### Society Executive Director

Rebekah Beaulieu

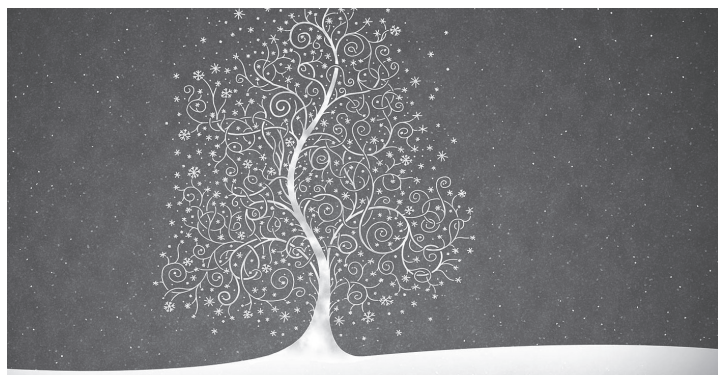
(from the president - continued from page 1)

the column bases and capitals, as well as restore and paint the outside trim, greatly enhancing the look of the Sanborn House, which already has an elegant first floor. These important improvements will make the House handicapped accessible and meet ADA standards. The grant is a matching one, which necessitates that we raise additional funds from the community. We need your help and assistance.

The 2010 programs of the Winchester Historical Society have been generating the largest audiences ever. We have been able to have monthly programs that have received rave reviews from the Winchester attendees. Whether you wanted to learn more about the architectural history of Winchester, how to restore your own house or about the Civil War, there has been an intriguing array of programs for the community to enjoy. The plans are to continue an aggressive schedule of programs that are free to the community. Whenever you see the announcements of upcoming programs, put it on your calendar for an evening of true community education and interesting presentations.

This is the time of the year for the Annual Appeal of the Winchester Historical Society. If you haven't already sent in your donation, now is a good time to share in the responsibility of helping the Society continue to flourish while the Sanborn House continues to shine. Your generosity and caring for the community of Winchester is most needed at this time and it is very much appreciated. Thank you for your kindness and assistance as we preserve the past and build for the future.

The Winchester Historical Society schedules its Holiday Party after the busy Christmas season and into the New Year. Please plan on attending the January 9, 2011 Holiday Party from 2 to 4 PM at the architecturally impressive Thompson Memorial Library at 33 Elm Street in Woburn. The guest speaker will be John McElhiney, noted Woburn historian. It is a great opportunity to enjoy some fine refreshment and stimulating company and celebrate the New Year with your friends at the Winchester Historical Society. Happy Holidays and have a great New Year!



(KISS : keep it simple, keep it small - continued from page 1)

American homes built before 1919.

“Deep energy retrofits,” which seal the entire house as a unit, are difficult – and expensive – to apply to older homes. For example, the recommendation for attic insulation in New England is R 5 or higher, which would mean 16 inches of insulating material. Instead, Ms. Zimmerman recommended the KISS approach (Keep it simple, start small) with projects such as attic insulation, weather stripping, window caulking, sealing and insulating ducts and pipes, and upgrading your heating/cooling system. These steps could be best described as “shallow energy retrofits.” Wall insulation may be problematic and should be approached cautiously; sprayed foam, for example, requires removal of finishes, obscures the fabric of the building and is not reversible.

The question-and-answer session allowed time for more detailed discussion of topics such as the value of an energy audit using the “blower door test” (expensive but able to pinpoint specific areas of problems) and wooden windows (not necessary to replace as older wood is dense and less subject to rot.) Older wood windows can be made tight and with the addition of storm windows have an energy rating just slightly less than double pane windows. The latter was particularly interesting to the Historical Society since the Sanborn House has 52 wooden windows and 13 doors.

Among the resources Ms. Zimmerman recommended are:

**New England Window Restoration Alliance**

<http://www.windowrestorationne.org/>

**Regreen**

<http://www.regreenprogram.org/>

**George Nash, *Renovating Old Houses: Bringing New Life to Vintage Homes.***

Taunton Press, 2003.

**Historic New England**

<http://www.historichomeowner.org> - these regulations for the 7% of American homes built before 1919.

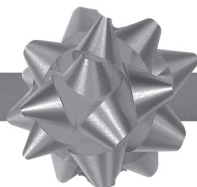
## Society Receives En Ka Grant

by Nancy Schrock

A restored and handicapped-accessible entrance to the Sanborn House came one step closer to reality when the Historical Society received news that it was the recipient of a generous grant from the En Ka Society. These funds will be used to help match the Society's \$45,000 Massachusetts Historic Preservation Fund grant.

This year's En Ka grant is the second gift to the Historical Society for the Sanborn House. A grant in 2008 funded two large stainless steel catering tables in the kitchen, which have made food much easier and healthier to serve. The Society in turn was pleased to welcome En Ka members to the Sanborn House for their provisional tea in spring 2009.

We look forward to welcoming them and all members of the Winchester community to the Sanborn House when our beautiful new entrance is complete. Thank you, En Ka!



## Still Need a Holiday Gift?

The publications of the Winchester Historical Society make a wonderful gift for all your friends and family who have an association with or an interest in Winchester. The Society web site (<http://www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org/index.php/books>) offers details and photos on all of the items listed on the publications form on page 7.



## HOLIDAY PARTY!

Ring in the New Year with the  
Winchester Historical Society

**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2011

**Time:** 2:00-4:00PM

**Place:** Thompson Memorial Library  
33 Elm Street (at West)  
North Woburn, Massachusetts  
Wine and holiday treats!

If you've never been inside the Thompson Memorial Library, you're in for a treat. Its elegant vaulted ceilings and massive, ornate windows provide the perfect backdrop for a trip back in time as it opened to the public in 1906.

**Speaker:** John McElhiney, attorney and local historian who will speak about the Thompson Family who were prominent in Woburn and built the historic library.

For members and their guests only!

## Donate On-Line!

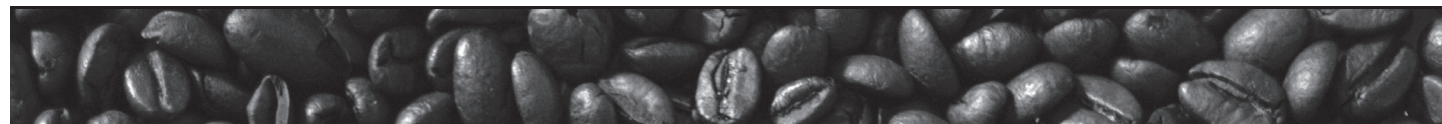
Donate with your credit card

The Society can now accept donations on-line via any of the major credit cards.

Go to [www.sanbornhouse.org](http://www.sanbornhouse.org), click on How Can I Help? on the top menu, and then click on Donations. You will see an icon, Donate Now, to click on for on-line donations.







**Chase and Sanborn Company: Innovation, Entertainment, and Intrigue!**  
by Carol K. Keller



A friend visiting in 2006 innocently asked, “Whatever happened to the Chase and Sanborn Company?” At the time the Society was diligently working with the Town of Winchester to complete a lease for the Sanborn House.

The answer is a fascinating story - a world leader in coffee innovation, long-time sponsor of a very successful radio show, and participant in the largest financial scam of the 1980's - a colorful American company tale! Below is information found through the Internet in 2006.

**1878**

Chase & Sanborn Company is founded by Caleb Chase and James Sanborn (The founding date of 1863 was later adopted by the company as both partners had companies from this date before combining to form Chase & Sanborn)

**1878**

Chase & Sanborn becomes the first company to pack and ship roasted coffee in sealed cans; this becomes a large part of their success.

**1903** James Sanborn dies.

**1906-1908**

Oren Sanborn, son of James, builds his new home, now the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center, in Winchester.

**1928**

The Fleischmann Company, the Royal Baking Powder Company, and Chase and Sanborn Company merge to become Standard Brands Incorporated.

**1929-1948**

Standard Brands sponsor the weekly radio show, *The Chase and Sanborn Hour*. Stars of the show included Maurice Chevalier, Eddie Cantor, Jimmy Durante, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, Dorothy Lamour, Nelson Eddy and Mae West.

**1981**

Standard Brands merges with Nabisco

**1982**

The combined company, Nabisco Brands sells some of Standard Brands' older businesses, including Chase and Sanborn, to General Coffee Corporation. There Chase and Sanborn becomes one of fifteen companies owned or controlled by Alberto Duque Rodriguez of Miami.

**1984**

A bidding war breaks out between Chock Full of Nuts Coffee and Hills Brothers Coffee for the assets of Chase and Sanborn from bankruptcy proceedings of Alberto Duque. Hills Brothers Coffee wins.

**1984**

Nestle Holdings, the US holding company for the Swiss Nestle S.A., acquires Hills Brothers Coffee

**1985**

Alberto Dugue, once known as the “Boy Coffee King”, is convicted in an \$85 million bank fraud case which included charges of conspiracy, wire fraud and misapplication of bank funds.

**1988-1991**

Coffee beans from Central America were used for coffee smuggling and money laundering into the U.S., by the Bank of Credit & Commerce International (B.C.C.I) empire. This organization was subsequently found to have operated the world's largest Ponzi scheme and corporate criminal enterprise up to that time. A Lloyd's of London lawsuit investigated the president of Chase and Sanborn (1981- 1984) for knowing the coffee was smuggled and accepting substantial commissions to facilitate sales to Chase and Sanborn and Chock Full of Nuts.

**1999**

Nestle sells Hills Brothers, Chase and Sanborn, and MJB brands to Sara Lee Corporation which also owns Chock Full of Nuts coffee.

**2005**

Sara Lee sells US retail coffee brands, including Chase and Sanborn to the Zanetti Coffee Group of Italy. New company name is Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA which today (2010) sells Chase and Sanborn coffee.

*Would someone like to dig deeper to confirm these facts and add details? Are you interested? Email [kellerck@aol.com](mailto:kellerck@aol.com) or call 781-721-4643.*



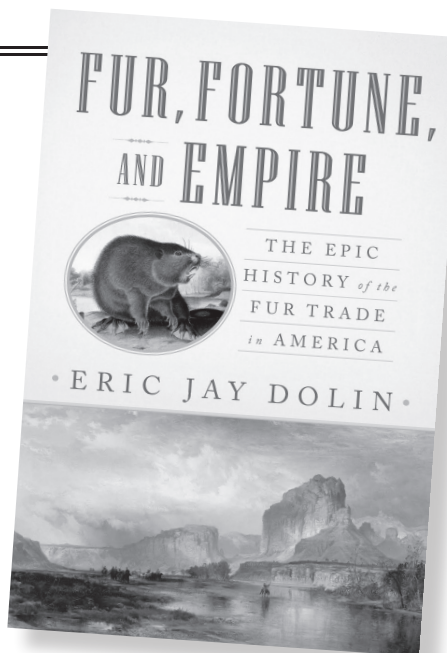
## Researching Your Old House

**Wednesday,  
February 9, 2011  
7:30 p.m.  
Winchester Room,  
Winchester Town Hall  
71 Mount Vernon Street**

Have you ever wanted to know more about your Winchester home? A panel of experts from the Winchester Historical Commission, Archival Center, and Historical Society will explain and discuss the resources available in Town Hall to research your home.

Afterwards you can visit the Archival Center and search for your house in old maps and in the survey files of pre-1917 homes. Use town directories to find out who has lived where you do. Find out how to access the Center's database to view historic postcards and photographs.

It's an opportunity to use original sources to learn about your town and your house.



## Fur, Fortune and Empire: The Importance of the Fur Trade in the History of the United States

by Laurie Minniti

On Tuesday, October 12th, the Friends of the Winchester Library and the Winchester Historical Society hosted author Eric Jay Dolin who traced the dramatic rise and fall of the American fur trade industry. Beginning along the Eastern seaboard and expanding westward to the Pacific Ocean, nearly every fur-bearing animal was killed for its pelt.

The beaver, abundant in the forests of New England and New York, was nearly brought to extinction to meet the need for beaver felt hats. The buffalo, valued by native Americans, was also nearly brought to extinction to meet the need for carriage blankets, bed covers and boot linings. Furthermore, to add insult to injury, with the expansion of the railroad came the tourist who, while riding on the train, shot the buffalo for sport, leaving the bodies alongside the track as the train sped onward in search of more game.

To meet the needs of the rich Chinese, sea otters were hunted. Prized for their skins, a beautiful pelt could bring upwards of \$150.00. Likewise, sealskin, used for coats, was sold to the Chinese and later to Americans and Europeans.

With the rise of the fur trade industry began the rise of the American millionaire. John Jacob Astor, America's first multimillionaire, owed his fortune to the fur trade industry. Today, the magnitude of his fortune can still be felt in many aspects of American life. Who among us doesn't know of the Astors--or his pet horse, for that matter? True to the American West and its rough-and-ready lifestyle, the Rocky Mountain trappers, known as the Mountain Men, led a lifestyle immortalized in stories known throughout our country. They were a legend in their own time.

Getting a small glimpse into the fur trading industry and its prominence in American history, one understands Mr. Dolin's premise that you cannot fully understand New England's, or the nation's history, unless you understand the history of the fur trade.

Mr Dolin has published the book *Fur, Fortune, and Empire*. An interview by Emily Costello with the author is available at <http://www.wickedlocal.com/winchester/news/x1197811866/WINCHESTER-LIBRARY-Questions-for-author-Eric-Jay-Dolin>, and previously appeared in the Winchester Star. Excerpts from this interview appear above.

## Thanks for the Donations!

The Society would like to thank all of the individuals, members, businesses, foundations and organizations that have contributed toward the restoration of the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center in 2010. Many in-kind services as well as monetary contributions have been donated. We still have a long way to go, but your support has been invaluable in helping us reach this point.

The Society has produced a new set of posters to explain the ongoing restoration to donors in a very visual manner. Be sure to view these posters the next time you are in the mansion. This restoration is a reflection of your generous donations to the Society and our community.

Photos below were taken at an October fund-raiser at the Sanborn House. We anticipate notable improvements to the Sanborn House in 2011, and we look forward to sharing them with you. (Photos courtesy of Mark Flannery.)



*Guest enjoy the evening at the Sanborn House.*

*Sally Quinn, Bob Quinn and Susan Youmans (l to r) view and celebrate the restoration*



## Donate to the Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal provides valuable funding for the Society's programs and activities that this year have provided programs on topics ranging from Winchester architectural history to navigating the world of residential restoration. The Society's participation in events such as Town Day has brought hundreds of people to the Sanborn House, learning about its history and making new memories. And we have made incredible progress towards our goal of restoring the Sanborn House exterior and making the entrance fully accessible, with recent local and state grants totaling \$60,000 toward the estimated cost of \$113,000 for this phase of construction.

This success would not be possible without the help of our community. The Annual Appeal provides for the everyday expenses faced by the Society, and ensures that we can keep bringing you the high level of service, engagement, and programming you have come to expect from the Society. With the support of donors like you, we can continue to open the doors of the Sanborn House to the community, offering public programs and private rental facilities.

*(continued on page 7)*



*Nancy O'Heron discusses the posters and the restoration with (l to r) Bob Colt, Don DeMita, and Bob Tedesco.*



(Donate to the Annual Appeal - continued from page 6)

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. Go to: <http://www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org/index.php/donate>

Thank you for your support. The Society looks forward to hearing from you soon.

order form

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



- Meetings** Board meetings are held in the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center on the third Tuesday of the month (October 19, November 16, December 14 (note date change), January 18, 2011) at 7:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.
- Programs** **Tuesday, November 30, "The Robbins Family of East Lexington: Rising to Prominence in the New Republic"**  
Jennifer Swope, scholar, 7:30 PM, Sanborn House
- Sunday, January 9, 2011, Holiday Party, 2:00-4:00PM, Thompson Memorial Library, 33 Elm Street (at West), North Woburn, Massachusetts (comments on the history of the Thompson Library by John McElhiney, Woburn Historical Society**
- Wednesday, February 9, 2011, "Researching Your Old House" panel discussion, 7:30 PM., Winchester Room, Winchester Town Hall**
- Tuesday, April 12, 2011, "Appraisal Night: What's It Worth?", Kerry Shrives, Skinner, Boston and Marlborough, Mass.**
- May 2011 Society Annual Meeting, "Between Two Cities: New York Architects and the Domestic Architecture of Greater Boston, 1895-1930", Rebekah Beaulieu, Society Executive Director**
- 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 Rebekah Beaulieu (781-721-0135; email [director@winchesterhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:director@winchesterhistoricalsociety.com)) or Nancy Schrock (781-721-1229; email: [ncschrock@verizon.net](mailto:ncschrock@verizon.net)).

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