



From the President

by Bob Colt

The Winchester Historical Society and the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center had a very lively and eventful 2009, and came roaring into 2010. The naming of a talented and energetic first Executive Director, Rebekah Beaulieu was an important step in the Society's future.

Rebekah was the unanimous choice of the Board of Directors. She brings a zeal that will keep the Historical Society on task as we strive to reach out to the community, renovate the Sanborn House and raise the necessary resources to accomplish this challenge.

The January 10, 2010 Holiday Party was the first introduction of Rebekah to the Winchester community. An

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Society Appoints Executive Director

Major Step in Transformation of Sanborn House into a Public Institution

The Winchester Historical Society has appointed Rebekah Beaulieu as its new Executive Director, effective immediately. Ms. Beaulieu will also manage the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center, located at 15 High Street in Winchester, which now is open to the public on a regular basis.

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President Bob Colt introduces Rebekah Beaulieu (left) as the new Executive Director at the Holiday Party (Photo courtesy of D. Feigenbaum.)

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(from the president - continued from page 1)

overflowing crowd with many Society members and our friendly Selectmen enjoyed the atmosphere of the Sanborn House and the good food, feelings and enthusiasm of the day. Rebekah has been busy meeting local leaders and working with the dedicated 17 person Society Board of Directors to structure programs and accelerate plans for the continuing renovation of the Sanborn House.

2009 was a very good year with the approval to go forward with the granting of a Permanent Preservation Restriction to the Sanborn House by the Winchester Town Meeting in November. This crucial unanimous vote was the culmination of four meetings with the Board of Selectmen and meetings with the School Committee and Finance Committee, all of whom fully supported the designation of the Sanborn House to be permanently preserved.

This past year's program, the popular antique appraisal night, What's it Worth? Is there a Treasure in your Attic? with Skinner's Auctioneers will be repeated again in 2010 after it gave the Sanborn House the feeling of being at the Antiques Roadshow. The growing Annual Strawberry Festival and Classical Car Show on Town Day was another success and please mark June 5, 2010 on your calendar as another day to be at 15 High Street. The Winchester Historical Society is always looking for good ideas for programs our members would like, so please let us know your ideas.

If you are planning a special event, a family function or looking for a unique meeting place for your business or non-profit group, call the Winchester Historical Society at 781-721-0135 and check out the expanded amenities and the warm setting of the Sanborn House. The House is open each Tuesday or Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM or by appointment, and can be rented any day or evening.

Make 2010 the year in which you get more involved with the Winchester Historical Society, give to its Annual Appeal and share your talents and resources. Thank you for your interest and support as we go forward together.

(Society Appoints Executive Director - continued from page 1)

Bob Colt, President of the Winchester Historical Society said, "Rebekah was the unanimous choice from a very strong field of applicants and possesses the combination of an impressive academic background and some analogous fund-raising experience which make her a great fit for the Winchester community and the development of the Sanborn House as a true historical and cultural center. The future is bright with such a talented, energetic and dedicated individual working for the good of Winchester in developing this grand house."

Ms. Beaulieu's arrival marks a new period in the life of the Sanborn House. A stunning example of Beaux-Arts architecture, the Sanborn House was originally built in 1907 and since 2006 the Town of Winchester has given the stewardship to the Winchester Historical Society, an organization dedicated to sharing Winchester's rich history with its community. The Society has worked tirelessly to restore the building to its original beauty, currently planning an extensive capital campaign and recently earning a permanent preservation restriction for the site at this past fall's Town Meeting.

An academic as well as a professional, Ms. Beaulieu is a doctoral candidate in American and New England Studies at Boston University. She has significant experience in fund-raising for non-profit organizations, most notably the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago and the Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago. Ms. Beaulieu received a graduate degree in Arts Administration from Columbia University.

The Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment. To learn more about the Winchester Historical Society and the Sanborn House, please visit www.sanbornhouse.org or call 781-721-0135. (Press Release, January 2010)

Antiques Find New Home

by Nancy Schrock, Curator of Collections

Have you noticed the new oriental rug in the Oak Room of the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center? One step at a time, thanks to generous gifts from Society members, the House is returning to its former glory. The Society thanks Wendy and William Swanton for their donation of three oriental carpets and two brass and crystal chandeliers to the Society.

If you have period furnishings in good condition or kitchen equipment that might enhance the Sanborn House, leave a message at 781-721-0135, or email director@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org with the details. A committee from the Society will help you decide whether these items are appropriate to the House and its needs.

Holiday Party celebrates a Great Year!

Society members at the
Holiday Party

by Jean Herbert

On a snowy day in January, dozens of Winchester residents gathered at the Sanborn House for the annual Holiday Party of the Winchester Historical Society. Members brought friends and food to celebrate all that had been accomplished in the past year.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment was finding the perfect Executive Director for the Historical Society. After being introduced by President Bob Colt, Rebekah Beaulieu spoke briefly to the guests about her background and interest in the preservation of historic homes as well as her goals for Sanborn House and the Winchester Historical Society. Rebekah then chatted with the members answering their questions about her role.

Jo-Ann Michalak and her husband Tom have been members of the Historical Society for several years. They have always found it interesting to meet up with fellow Winchester residents at the

event. Jo-Ann was especially interested this year because she wanted to meet the new Executive Director and hear her thoughts on what direction the Society should go in. Jo-Ann found Rebekah to be personable and thinks she will represent the Society well, stating that she has a positive attitude about the organization and what she can contribute to its mission.

Peggy Regan lives close to Sanborn House and attended the event out of curiosity. She was impressed with how much work has been done inside the house to bring it back to its original beauty. The floors and woodwork give an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming. She is glad that the house will be open several days a week and especially glad that we will be working to make it handicap accessible. Peggy has since become a member of the Historical Society and hopes to volunteer in some way.

Vice President Nancy
Schrock gives the Society
an update.

Society President Bob Colt
speaks to the gathering.
(Photos courtesy of D.
Feigenbaum.)

Thank you for your Generous Response

The Society would like to thank the donors to the 2009 Annual Appeal:

Cydney Ambrose Photography
JoAnne Austad
Bob and Randy Bairnsfather
Paulene and Kenneth Barclay
Priscilla Baumann
Rebekah Beaulieu
Hanne Beck
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Bud and Barbara Bing
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Arthur C. Waltman
Linda and Jim Whitehead
Peter and Betsy Wild
Allan Wilde
Ellen and David Wilson
Holly and Woody Wood

Host Your Event at the Sanborn House

Don't forget! The Sanborn House is available for meeting and event rentals. Well-equipped with free wireless Internet connection and digital slide projector, the Sanborn House is the perfect choice for your next business meeting. The unique Beaux-Arts architectural styling also provides an exceptional setting for special events both small and large, from a birthday party to a wedding.

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

Find out more by visiting our website: (www.sanbornhouse.org) or call Executive Director Rebekah Beaulieu at 781-721-0135 to discuss how to plan a truly one-of-a-kind event at the Sanborn House.

Open Hours for members on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Sanborn House

The Winchester Historical Society is pleased to invite members of the community to visit the Sanborn House now that our new Executive Director, Rebekah Beaulieu, is managing the site and keeping regular hours.

Feel free to visit the Sanborn House during its open hours, 10 am to 4 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Contact Rebekah at 781-721-0135 or director@winchesterhistoricalsociety.com to schedule a tour. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Woburn: A Leather City Comes to Winchester in March

The film, *Woburn: A Leather City* will make its Winchester debut on March 24th at 7:30 PM at Winchester's own NextDoor Theater located at 40 Cross Street. The event is sponsored by the Winchester Historical Society as part of its educational programming for the community.

Created by members of the Woburn Historical Society, the film will educate its audience about the fascinating history of the Woburn leather industry. The presentation chronicles the history of the industry from the first tanneries that began operating in the colonial era, to their industry dominance in the 19th century, and then their ultimate fall in 1988 when the last tannery closed. Much of today's Winchester was South Woburn until the incorporation of Winchester in 1850 and had numerous tanneries.



Brian Ouellette, Kathy Lucero and John McElhinney with the Telly Award and Certificates.

Produced by Plasma Films, the film also depicts the lives of the mostly migrant workers and their families, as well as the tannery owners and the stately mansions they built and occupied along Main Street, often seen as monuments to their industry success.

The presentation will be introduced by Woburn historian Kathy Lucero and attorney John McElhinney. There will be time for questions after the film.

There is no charge for this event; however, seating is limited to 135. Please RSVP by calling 781-721-0135 and leave a message with your name, number of people attending and your telephone number. You will be notified only if the event is full to capacity.

Sanborn House to Welcome All

by Nancy Schrock

A top priority of the Historical Society is to make the Sanborn House Historical & Cultural Center accessible to everyone in our community. This presents a challenge since the building was constructed 100 years ago for a private family. Thanks to the Griffin Foundation, the Town of Winchester, and donations from our members, this is about to change.

Griffin Foundation Awards Grant

The Griffin Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Winchester Historical Society in December, to design a front entrance that respects the historical integrity of the National Register Building while meeting the requirements of the Americans for Disability Act (ADA). The Society hired Karle Packard of Red Hawk Studio to design an entrance and walkway with appropriate lighting and signage.

Working with David Stirling, head of the Building Committee, Karle has come up with an attractive and functional design. This design eliminates thresholds at the doorway, includes a new door that replicates the original double doors, and provides landscaping with symmetric walkways that will be wheelchair accessible without intrusive ramps and rails. Our next *Black Horse Bulletin* will feature drawings of the final plans, which will need to be reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Commonwealth's Architectural Access Board. Construction will require additional funding from grants and private donations.

Plans for ADA Bathroom and Parking

With funds recommended by the Town's Disability and Access Committee, the Town has hired Red Hawk Studio to prepare plans to make the first floor of the Sanborn House handicapped accessible. These include handicapped parking, a new ADA-compliant bathroom, and changes to the side entrance. The plans for the bathroom are ready for review by the Town and State as a variance will be needed to adapt the space available. All groups are working together to make this happen.

The combination of private and public funding, along with many hours of volunteer work, continues to move the Sanborn House forward. There are groups who have been unable to rent or visit because of the lack of handicapped access. The society expects to resolve this situation soon.

Happy 90th Birthday, Winchester League of Women Voters

by Nancy Schrock

The Archival Center played a role in plans for the celebration of the Winchester League of Women Voters' 90th year. Through its records, League members were able to trace their organization's roots to its predecessor, the Equal Suffrage League. Handwritten minutes in a lined ledger book begin, "A meeting of those interested in women's suffrage was called by Miss Pond, state organizer, at Madame Nowell's, Winchester, March 20, 1888, at three o'clock." Its goal was "to secure political enfranchisement of women."

A month later on April 10th, noted suffragist Lucy Stone spoke at the second meeting. Later speakers included William Lloyd Garrison, Alice Stone Blackwell and Maud Park. Programs were intended to educate women about government, citizenship, laws, school suffrage, prohibition and the like.

The Equal Suffrage League was a mix of progressive political activism and traditional good manners. The minutes for 1898 note, "The members of the Winchester League are very hospitable and at each meeting the hostess has served dainty refreshments and very many pleasant chats have been enjoyed by the members over the drinking of that cup that cheers, and plans have been made to hasten the coming of that day when men and women shall have the equal right to do all that can be done to make home lovers of the world better and heaven nearer."

But all was not white gloves and tea. In 1903 the minutes noted a talk about "inside information on active campaign work" through the work of the Prohibitionists, calling it "somewhat of an eye opener on the politics women can play and [we] willingly agreed that these several methods should be applied to suffrage with equally good results." In 1916 the minutes described "a very successful suffrage rally." By 1919-20 the League was finally able to plan a series of citizenship lectures to educate women on how to register to vote and participate as a full citizen of the United States.

Perhaps the most poignant inscription can be found at the end of the third ledger, "The last regular meeting of the Winchester Equal Suffrage Club and the first regular meeting of the Winchester League of Women Voters were held at the home of the chairman Mrs. David C. Dermott on June 2, 1920." The right to vote achieved, the Suffrage League could disband, leaving a rich legacy to its successor, the Winchester League of Women Voters.

To celebrate this milestone, the League is welcoming Lucy Stone back to Winchester. Judith Black will portray the feisty suffragist on March 9th at 7:30 P.M. at the Next Door Theater. The event is free and seating is limited so arrive early at 40 Cross Street.



Status of the front entrance columns.

"Why don't you fix the front columns?"

This is perhaps the most frequently asked question about the Sanborn House. Restoring a historic house is like solving a giant puzzle. One sometimes needs to avoid the "quick fix" in favor of a long-term, comprehensive solution.

The re-design of the front entrance is integral to the repair of the columns. Making the front entrance handicapped accessible will require raising the brick platform in front of the door, which will affect the height of the column bases. The completed entrance master plan will include specifications for the repair of the column bases.

Archival Center, Town Hall OPEN HOURS

First Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 p.m.
Second Thursday of the month, 1 to 3 p.m.
Third Thursday of the month, 3 to 5 p.m.
Or by appointment by calling 781-721-7146

Marycliff Academy Revisited

by Jane McBain Funderburk

As we arrived at 15 High Street on a bright sunny day last July, we hugged each other. For some of us, the last time we hugged was on these very grounds over forty years ago at our high school graduation in June 1968. We looked across at the new Ambrose school. Memories surfaced of an older building, three stories high surrounded by religious statues and with doorways inscribed with Latin, known to us in the 1950's and 1960's as Marycliff Academy. The school housed about 13 classrooms, a cafeteria, chapel, music room, library, gymnasium, science labs, art room and more, all for a population that averaged about 260 students, K-12. Some of us entered that building in 1955 as kindergartners and left in 1968 with high school diplomas to venture on to college and beyond.

We then headed toward the Sanborn House, which now is under the care of the Winchester Historical Society. We remembered this beautiful building as the "convent", home to approximately 20 RCE's (Religious of Christian Education) as we called them. As we entered the convent, we were warmly greeted by Ms. Nancy Schrock of the Historical Society. We sorted through the bags of memorabilia we had brought to share—a copy of the '68 yearbook the Shiloh, a Marycliff mug, a class ring, the Student Handbook, newspaper clippings from the *Winchester Star*, prom programs and many, many photographs. Pictures of May Processions, First Communions, annual parent bazaars, school plays, basketball games, school trips, National Honor Society inductions, graduations, art fairs, and more.

Front and center in most of these pictures were the beloved RCE's! In the fifties, their habits were large and triangular, shielding most of the faces. In the sixties, small wisps of human hair found their way out of the modified habits and we recalled being shocked to learn that nuns weren't bald. As the habits transformed so did the way we addressed the nuns, originally "Mother" plus their last name but later "Sister" plus their last name.

Nancy led us on a tour through a place that was once forbidden. We remembered waiting in the parlor on the rare occasion when our rides were very late to pick us up, fearing to move a muscle or speak above a whisper. We all recalled visiting the parlor when our beloved eight-grade teacher passed on and was waked there. On Prom night, a few of us visited to show our gowns, always making sure shoulders were covered and our dates were respectable. Once in a long while we would attend religious services with our families in the convent's Chapel. The convent was a quiet place, shrouded in mystery.

As Nancy led us up the beautiful staircase and the afternoon light streamed through the wonderful stained glass window, we felt that we were learning about a part of our own history. We tried to picture which of the nuns lived in which rooms. We were pretty sure the largest rooms and the best views were reserved for the Reverend Mother; the elderly nuns probably lived closest to the bathrooms, and the youngest shared rooms with two or three others. We pictured the best cooks among them in the kitchen and recognized the large room overlooking the "hill" as the Chapel. Our time at the Sanborn House flew by.

We had traveled from California, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts for this small Class of '68 reunion. As we gathered for dinner in Winchester center that evening, we realized that our "Alma Mater," once thought to be closed and forgotten, lives on in history thanks to the Winchester Historical Society.

The annual Marycliff May Procession, 1958. (Photo courtesy of J. Funderburk)



The original Marycliff Academy was a boarding school for girls founded in 1913 by the Religious of Christian Education, a French order of nuns. The school was located in Arlington Mass. In 1949, the building of our memories, a day school, was built on the Sanborn Estate in Winchester. The Marycliff we remembered was a nurturing place with high expectations for all students academically, socially, morally and spiritually, where women in the 1950's and 1960's were taught responsibility and leadership in preparation for the important role we would play in the latter part of the twentieth century. The 1960's Marycliff student Handbook stated: "The aim of instruction is to encourage independence in thought and initiative in act." (p.4 *Marycliff Ways*)

- Meetings** Board meetings are held in the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center on the third Tuesday of the month (March 16, April 20, May 18) at 7:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.
- Programs** **Woburn: A Leather City**, Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 PM, Next Door Theater, 40 Cross Street, Winchester, an award-winning film produced by Woburn Historical Society, with comments by Woburn historian Kathy Lucero and attorney John McElhiney.
- Potluck Dinner** - Saturday, April 10, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center
- Annual Meeting: At Home in Winchester: A History of Winchester's Residential Architecture** by John McConnell. Wednesday, May 12, 7:30 PM, Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center
- 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. You can help with our programs, collections, or the Sanborn House.
For more information: contact Rebekah Beaulieu (781-721-0135; email director@winchesterhistoricalsociety.com) or Nancy Schrock (781-721-1229; email: ncschrock@verizon.net).

