

# WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BLACK HORSE BULLETIN

Volume 35, Number 3

July - September 2010

### From the President

by Bob Colt

The Winchester Historical Society enters the busy Fall season with interesting programs and activities with the upcoming installation of a handicapped accessible, double, front door for the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center. After our successful completion of the replacement of the roof of the Sanborn House, this next wave of construction is made possible by a \$45,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. In the competitive atmosphere of fund requests, this is a major feather in the cap of the Winchester Historical Society and the Town of Winchester. This is a matching grant, so the Society needs the community's help and your generous assistance in raising additional monies to not only match the \$45,000, but to generate another

(continued on page 2)

### Society Receives \$45,000 State Grant for Sanborn House

by Nancy Schrock

Look for dramatic changes to the Sanborn House starting this fall! The Massachusetts Historical Commission has selected the Winchester Historical Society as one of only twenty organizations in the state to receive its prestigious Preservation Project Fund Grant. The funds, which must be matched, are to be used to restore the front entrance of the Sanborn

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The restored Sanborn House entry will be adapted from this early 1900 photograph.

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Managing Editor: Carol Keller; Editors: Jean Herbert, Nancy O'Herron  
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Winchester Historical Society • 15 High Street • Winchester, MA 01890  
781.721.0135 [www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org) • [www.sanbornhouse.org](http://www.sanbornhouse.org)

### 2010-2011 Board Officers

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Thomas Seigny	Courtenay Williams

### Society Executive Director

Rebekah Beaulieu

(from the president - continued from page 1)

\$35,000 in funds to complete a key phase of the restoration of the stately Sanborn House.

Besides your financial help, we need your volunteer assistance to continue the work of the Winchester Historical Society. Your time and greatly appreciated efforts are very important to the Society as we address the needs of the Sanborn House and the Society's programs, gala events and community involvement. If you would like to serve on the Education and Programs Committee, the Outreach Committee or the Sanborn Operations Committee, just call the Historical Society at 781-721-0135. We need people who will repair, clean or house-sit the Sanborn House, folks who will volunteer at our monthly events, help with clerical, website or computer efforts or assist us in publicizing our programs. Get more involved for the fun of it!

The members of the Board of Directors deserve special thanks and accolades for their continuing efforts to make the Winchester Historical Society come alive with new programs and community collaborative programs. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and energetic Executive Director, Rebekah Beaulieu who keeps tabs and oversees the many irons that we have in the fire. We have open hours Tuesday and Thursdays between 10 AM and 4 PM at the Sanborn House and we invite you to get involved in our House and Society.

If you are a member of any organization who would like to rent the beautiful first floor of the Sanborn House for a soiree or a simple meeting, just contact us. Families that have recently rented the House have really enjoyed the unique setting and appreciated the splendor of the inside of this true community resource.

Please read the article in this *Black Horse Bulletin* that the writer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation wrote for their national website magazine, *Preservation*. The article begins with "The Sanborn House in Winchester, Mass, an early-20th-century Beaux Arts mansion with a rich yet unstable past, has a promising future." And ends with "It's a shared mission. Preserve the past and build for the future." The Winchester Historical Society and the Sanborn House indeed does have a bright future and we look forward to your continued support and involvement. Thank you.

(Society Receives \$45,000 State Grant for Sanborn House from page 1)

House and make it handicapped accessible.

The grant review process was highly competitive and the finalists needed to prove that their projects were historically significantly, "shovel ready," and had a permanent preservation restriction in place. Thanks to a previous planning grant of \$5,000 from the Griffin Foundation, Town Meeting's approval of the restriction, and the collaboration of town officials and the Society, the Sanborn House met these criteria.

Plans call for a new mahogany and glass front entrance replicating the original, new entry walk, lighting, and automatic opener. Next spring the project will conclude by replacing missing front column bases and capitals, restoration of exterior trim, and painting. Research and paint analysis will determine the original color, and all work will meet the rigorous standards of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The final extent of trim restoration and painting will depend upon the funds that the Society and the Winchester community will contribute to the project. The grant will supply \$45,000, which must be matched, along with architectural fees.

By next summer, the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center should have an attractive, restored front entrance, which is handicapped accessible.

### Welcome!

The Society is pleased to welcome new members:

Tom and Marie Gosnell

Betty McVicar

Rebekah Beaulieu

Peggy Regan

Laura Fitzgerald

John and Alice Senko

Paula DeGiacomo

Carol Watson-Phillips

Ann Blackham

Sanya Lombardi





## Gifts to the Sanborn House and Society

by Nancy Schrock

The Winchester Historical Society has been the recipient of several significant gifts, some for the Sanborn House operations and others related to the history of Winchester. Gifts of tangible items related to Winchester's history are a welcome addition to the Sanborn House and the Society's collections – and may be tax deductible.

Kathleen and Clarence Kemper donated a handsome wooden lawyers' bookcase which now stands at the top of the second floor landing. We look forward to displaying our artifacts in it.

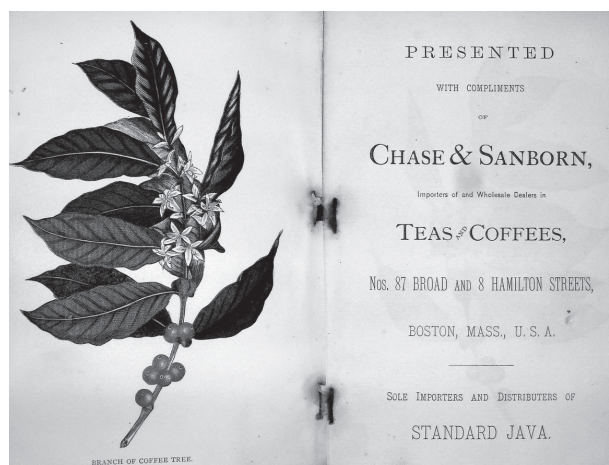
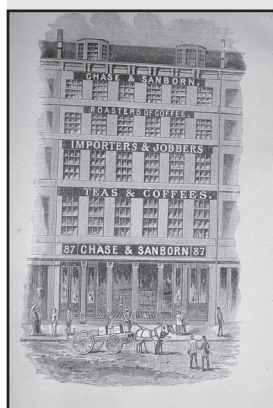
Catering at the Sanborn House became a lot easier, thanks to a 2009 grant from the En Ka Society, which funded two 5 foot stainless steel mobile tables. Vittorio Ettore of Bistro 5 helped with the selection.



Chase & Sanborn Coffee plays a role in Winchester's history since it funded the fortune of Oren Sanborn, who built the Sanborn House. Dee Morris, speaker at last year's program on Medford, donated a rare brochure on the company, complete with a wood engraving of the Chase & Sanborn store in Boston.



Thanks to a gift from Peter Wild, the Oak Room now displays the school master's desk that once stood in the Highland School in Winchester. The school was located at the corner of Highland Avenue and Eaton Street and accommodated students through the fourth grade. It was closed in 1943.



## Society and Sanborn House Travel the Internet

Two Internet web sites have recently featured the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center and the Society. The National Trust for Historic Preservation made the Sanborn House its Story of the Day feature on June 1st, in the on-line edition of its magazine, *Preservation*. The Society would like to thank Stephen Hussar for helping to coordinate this article. And WinchesterPatch, part of Patch.com that is a new online news source that covers many towns nationally, and includes some Massachusetts towns, published an interview with the Society's Executive Director, Rebekah Beaulieu on August 31st. Excerpts from both appear below.

### Historical Society Revives

#### Sanborn Mansion

By Devin Loftus | Online Only | July 1, 2010

The Sanborn House in Winchester, Mass., an early-20th-century Beaux Arts mansion with a rich yet unstable past, has a promising future.

Oren Sanborn, son of James Sanborn of Chase & Sanborn Coffee, purchased the 9.5-acre property in 1904. Aigremont, as Sanborn called the house, was designed by architects Clinton M. Hill and Thomas M. James, who completed the project in 1908.

Currently the headquarters of the Winchester Historical Society, the structure will become the community's Historical and Cultural Center when its restoration is completed. An exterior restoration, under way now, is slated to be completed within a year.

The Town of Winchester, which owned the house since 1969, formerly used the mansion for its Recreation Department. Yet the once-opulent house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, was vacant by 2003. Two years later, the Massachusetts Historical Commission recognized the Sanborn House as endangered property. That's when the Winchester Historical Society made the Sanborn House its home and restoration was able to progress.

Despite ongoing restoration work, the Sanborn House is very being used for art exhibitions, educational programs such as etiquette classes and art classes, and meetings for local groups and businesses.

"The grace of this mansion—the unique, Beaux Arts architecture—[it] is a place where people can proudly have their functions," says Bob Colt, president of the Winchester Historical Society.

Colt's group has already seen a rise in membership and rentals, which help fund the restoration. "Everything has been an upswing," Colt says. The society recently received a \$45,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Com-

mission and hopes to raise \$1.2 million for the restoration.

Phase one of the restoration focused on the first floor, roof, veranda, windows, and other elements. During phase two, currently under way, workers are restoring the house's exterior and installing handicapped-accessible features.

"[The Winchester Historical Society] is totally committed to handicapped accessibility while preserving the integrity of the house," Colt says.

The society must raise at least \$500,000 for the third phase of restoration, which will address the kitchen, second floor, and mechanical systems.

The Sanborn House is the only local mansion to be restored for public use, Colt says, and the project is moving ahead thanks to strong community support.

"It's a shared mission," he says. "Preserve the past and build for the future."

(see <http://www.preservationnation.org/magazine/2010/todays-news/sanborn-mansion-under.html>)

### Winchester Historical Society Has its First Executive Director

*Rebekah Beaulieu is excited to be in her new role.*

By Matt Tempesta

Rebekah Beaulieu admits that she wasn't a big fan of history when she was in high school. But that was high school.

Since completing her degree in American Studies from George Washington University in 2003, Beaulieu has gone on to receive a master's in art history from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, another master's in arts administration from Columbia University in New York and is now a doctoral candidate in American and New England Studies at Boston University.

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*Winchester Historical Society Has its First Executive Director  
(continued from page 4)*

Now, seven years after her first history degree, Beaulieu has taken her expertise to Winchester as the executive director of the Winchester Historical Society and the Sanborn House.

"It's been fantastic," said Beaulieu, who was hired in January. "It has been a blur. It's been very busy but at the same time there hasn't been one minute that has not been completely enjoyable. It's a great place to work. There's an amazing architectural history to Winchester over the past 100 years. The domestic architecture in Winchester is some of the best you're going to find in Greater Boston."

Between organizing fundraisers, hosting tours and managing construction projects, Beaulieu has had a lot on her plate. But even though she said she feels like she has "15 jobs in one," the New Hampshire native is excited by the progress that has been made in her short time in Winchester.

"In the six months that I've been here, we've brought in some grant money, we've increased our programming and we've worked with the board to professionalize the society more," said Beaulieu. "Already in six months we've made a lot of strides to where the society wants to be in the future."

While she was born in New England, Beaulieu was raised in Milwaukee, but she says her parents always managed to make their way back east every fall to check out the historic houses and museums in towns like Salem, Concord and Lexington. And even though Beaulieu didn't take an interest in history in school, it was these experiences that gave her an appreciation for the past.

"We were always going on historical house tours and going to museums," said Beaulieu. "My father was an avid reader and encouraged me to read just as much. So I was always geared toward a literary side and an appreciation for history."

"Those were always personal interests," she added. "It wasn't until I went to college that there was an opportunity for me to craft research projects that I could be interested in. I was never a fan of history in high school. But as soon as I got to college and I could do more personal research I fell in love with history and art both."

Despite being just 28, and only 27 when she was first hired, WHS President Bob Colt said Beaulieu has brought a much-needed energy to the Historical Society.

"She's young but she's vibrant and energetic," said Colt. "and at the Historical Society we decided that that's what we wanted in someone, someone who's a real go-getter and can relate to a number of community groups and the Winchester community. In the nonprofit world, personality and drive go a long way and she has both of those qualities. She helps set the inviting tone that we want the Historical Society and the Sanborn House to have."

"I think that I skewed the entire applicant pool," said Beaulieu. "I'm a little bit younger, but they seemed to appreciate that I was coming from both an academic and a professional standpoint."

One of the aspects of Winchester that Beaulieu said has made her job easier is the overall interest in history that she has seen from residents. Instead of sitting down and reading book after book to learn about the history of the area, Beaulieu said the people of Winchester have been an invaluable resource.

"It's a great place to run the historical society because everyone is interested in the town," said Beaulieu. "I have a lot of people who just want to talk about interesting experiences that they've had or documents that they can share and it makes my job a lot easier when people are excited about history. I found that to be the most exciting and the easiest way to learn about Winchester history."

Beaulieu first moved to the Boston area last summer after finishing her second master's degree at Columbia. It was her time in New York City that she says gave her a "fantastic introduction to museums."

Now that she's running the day-to-day operations of both the Winchester Historical Society and the Sanborn House, Beaulieu said she's hoping to kick things into high-gear with more fundraising events and more tours to help raise money to fully restore the Sanborn House.

But despite the tough road ahead, Beaulieu's energy and enthusiasm for all things history should pay off in the end.

"It's a great job and it's a great place to work," said Beaulieu. "It's fun, and I will say that I'm definitely on the younger end of historic house directors, but I think there's a new generation that's coming in that is very interested in public history. I think I'm just one of a new crop that are going to come in and reenergize this field."

(see <http://winchester.patch.com/articles/winchester-historical-society-has-its-first-executive-director>)



*Alumni at the Marycliff Academy reunion. Back from left, Ellen Cleary Toms, Linda Champa, Carol Martignetti Boswell, Elizabeth Murgia Zapelli, Linda Marino Freeman, Janet Maggiore Lang. Front row, from left, Joan Sennett Boudreau, Jacqueline Matthews Cavanaugh, Christine Lyons. Not pictured, but present at the reunion: Susan Ricci Fougere, Elaine Tipping O'Reilly, Diane Balestrieri Pasciuto.*

## Alumni Hold Reunion

by Ellen Toms

There were 23 students in the class of 1969, and 12 were present at the Marycliff Academy 40th Reunion held in June 2010. The event started with a Mass with Father Richard Clancy, Chaplain at MIT, and then a tour of the Sanborn House, which was formerly the convent of the RCE (Religious of Christian Education) during the Marycliff years. Susan Fougere later hosted a lovely dinner at her home.

The ladies reminisced about their time at Marycliff (some started in kindergarten and remained there 13 years until graduation), and then everyone caught up on children, grandchildren, careers and life in general. There was much laughter, and many hugs were exchanged.

The Sanborn House was originally the private residence of Oren Sanborn, younger son of James Sanborn, the co-founder of Chase and Sanborn Coffee. It was designed in the beaux-arts style by architects Clinton M. Hill and Thomas M. James, and was erected in 1907/08 at a cost of \$250,000. In the early 1920s, the house was sold to the Downes family, founders of Downes Lumber of Boston, and used as a family home for the next two decades. Their decision to sell the house and surrounding land to the Religious of Christian Education was significant in the ongoing preservation of the house during the years after World War II when so many large homes of the Victorian and Edwardian period were destroyed. The nuns built Marycliff Academy on what had been the western paddock and used the Sanborn House for their residence.

In 1969 the town of Winchester purchased the Marycliff Academy and the adjacent house. The school evolved to the present Ambrose Elementary School (rebuilt in 2005), and the Sanborn House became home to a variety of occupants, most recently the town Recreation Department. In 1981, the Sanborn House was one of the first properties in Winchester to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In March 2006 the Winchester Historical Society signed a long-term lease for the Sanborn House with the town of Winchester. The society took on the stewardship for the restoration of the property and its conversion into the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center for the use of the community as well as a home for the Society.

## Winchester Historical Society STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION\*

### ASSETS as of December 31, 2009

Cash / checking	\$91,576
Investments	\$13,380
Monetary Assets	\$104,956
Furniture and fixtures	\$5,269
Leasehold improvements	\$160,063
<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>	<b>\$270,288</b>

### REVENUE for calendar year 2009

Membership dues	\$9,325
Program income	\$745
Sale	\$1,628
Rental income	\$4,330
Contributions	\$32,870
Interest income	\$901
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$49,799</b>

Pledges received \$14,278

### EXPENSES for calendar year 2009

Educational programs	\$3,729
Publications/outreach	\$2,687
Administration	\$2,770
Sanborn House operations	\$15,799
Sanborn House improvements	\$2,837
Fundraising	\$2,109
Depreciation	\$1,071
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$31,002</b>

Cash to leasehold improvements  
\$34,099

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

## Open Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Visit the Sanborn House during its open hours, 10am to 4pm 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!



## Community Events on Town Day 2010

Classic Car Show. Strawberry Festival. Tours of the Sanborn House and grounds. Guided Trolley Tours of Winchester. Once again the Society offered fun, community activities on Winchester Town Day, June 5 2010. Below are photos that document some of the excitement and events.

The Society would like to thank the Winchester Savings Bank for providing the trolleys, and David Feigenbaum for the photographs.

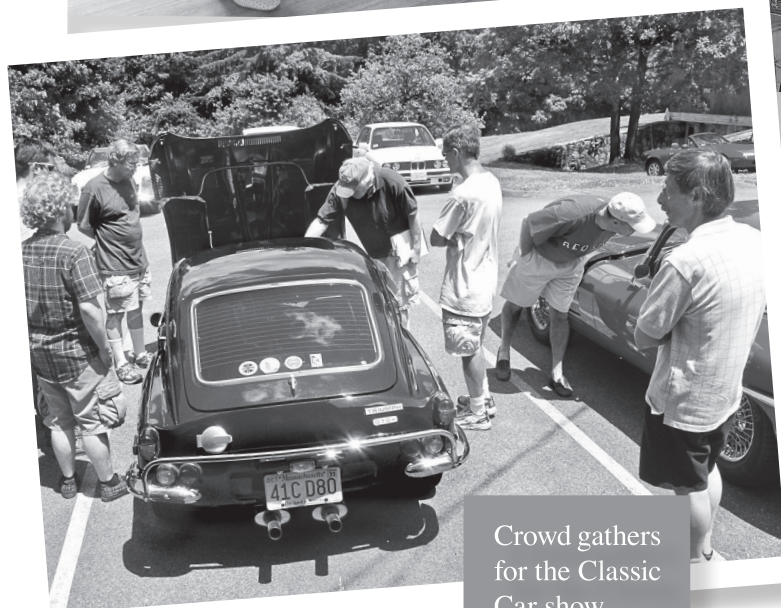
Executive Director Rebekah Beaulieu starts a Sanborn House tour.



Hard working Society members (l-r) Randy Bairnsfather, Candace Van Aken, and Wendy Swanton keep the strawberry shortcakes flowing.



Yes, the strawberry shortcake was delicious!



Crowd gathers for the Classic Car show.



- Meetings** Board meetings are held in the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center on the third Tuesday of the month (August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14 (note date change)) at 7:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.
- Programs** **Tuesday, September 28, "Energy Retrofits and the Older Home: Weighing Risks and Opportunities", Sally Zimmerman, Historic New England; 7:30 PM Sanborn House**
- Tuesday, October 12, "Fur, Fortune and Empire: A Presentation on the Fur Trade in America", Eric Jay Dolan, 7:00 PM Winchester Public Library, (Co-sponsored with Friends of the Winchester Public Library)**
- November TBA**
- Sunday, January 9, 2011, Holiday Party**
- 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@comcast.net](mailto:ncschrock@comcast.net)).

