



# • Black Horse Bulletin

Newsletter of the Winchester Historical Society / Vol 38, Number I / July 2012 - September 2013

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## Margen Kelsey Named New Site Manager for Sanborn House, Rental Promotion



Margen Kelsey, new Site Manager

Margen Kelsey, a Winchester resident for the past 16 years, has been hired by the Winchester Historical Society to be in charge of operations at its Sanborn House headquarters. Kelsey replaces outgoing WHS Executive Director Rebekah Beaulieu, whose position has now been redesignated Site Manager.

Kelsey brings experience in historic preservation planning and non-profit management to the Historical Society. With a degree in Art History from Williams College, she brings a lifelong interest in architecture, history, art and culture to the position. Over the past two decades she has worked with numerous boards, wearing the many hats of staff, volunteer and board president.

At the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, she expanded local historic districts and nominated the Somerville Theatre in Davis Square to the National Register of Historic Places when threatened by development. As a Main Streets manager in East Boston, she coordinated downtown revitalization efforts and promoted signage and storefront improvements among local business owners.

She is an active board member of Parent to Parent in Winchester and the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, where she is overseeing a project to develop an interactive curriculum for fifth-graders visiting the museum.

Margen and her husband Mark Pine moved to Winchester in 1997. Their two older children are in college, and their youngest attends Winchester High School, where Mark teaches mathematics. In addition to managing the Sanborn House and promoting rental opportunities for it, Margen hopes to engage more people of all ages in local history. ■

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

## WHS Receives grants for Sanborn House Renovation

by Nancy Schrock

We are pleased to announce that the Winchester Historical Society received three grants for projects to restore the historic Sanborn House. These three projects are top priorities in our strategic plan making the restored house accessible to the entire Winchester community.

The En Ka Society has continued its support of efforts to upgrade the kitchen facilities so as to be useful for catered events. This year En Ka contributed \$4,000 toward the purchase of 7 replacement windows for the 1906 originals, which were in poor condition with deteriorated wood casings and single glazing. Previous En Ka grants in 2009 and 2012 provided stainless steel tables and upgrades to plumbing.



New stainless steel sinks in the Sanborn kitchen

[continued on next page]

The kitchen now meets the Board of Health requirements for catering, expanding the use of the house for community functions.

In the past, the Griffin Foundation has provided funds for improvements to the front entrance and a master plan for the landscape design. This year the Foundation, under its Beautifying Winchester Program, donated \$14,000 toward the \$25,000 cost of restoring one of the town's most beautiful public artworks, the stained glass window over the front entrance. (see article on page 5.)

The most extensive project is the least visible because all work is taking place in the basement. WHS was one of 100 local non-profit organizations to receive grants from the Cummings Foundation. The foundation will fund the equipment and provide the expertise to replace two aged oil-fired boilers with new energy-efficient gas-fired ones. Reliable heating will finally make it possible to use the house throughout the winter without fear of breakdowns and astronomical oil bills.

As part of the application process for the Cummings Foundation, WHS submitted an in-depth profile of its missions, programs, management, governance and financials to The Giving Commons, an initiative of the Boston Foundation, a free online resource to inform philanthropic activities in Massachusetts. We encourage you to visit its website: [www.thegivingcommon.org](http://www.thegivingcommon.org) to learn more. ■

## Annual Appeal 2012: Thank you to our many donors!

The Winchester Historical Society relies on the generous financial support of its members and friends to fund Society programs, operations, and improvements to its headquarters, the Sanborn House. The following have donated to the 2012 Annual Appeal and other fundraising efforts during the last 12 months. We thank you all!

Bradford Bailey  
Randy and Bob Bairnsfather  
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Judy and Jerry Blaine  
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DeVallon and Suzanne Bolles  
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Winchester Cooperative Bank  
Winchester Garden Club in memory of  
Martha Spears  
Margaret A. Wiseman



# Programs Advance Historical Society's Mission

by Laurie Minniti

At the heart of the Winchester Historical Society's mission are the many public educational programs it schedules throughout the year. These are generally free and open to anyone, and they are always opportunities for members and friends to learn and have fun.

Starting last October with an event at the library, co-sponsored with the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, the programs continued in November. Tom Raphael, our ever-popular and informative octogenarian, gave a presentation on the formation and development of the Middlesex Turnpike. This was followed in December by the annual Holiday Party, featuring an enthusiastic performance by the Jubilation Singers --- an extremely talented music and dance ensemble of students from McCall Middle School --- who ushered in the holiday season with glee.

On March 5th Stuart Slavid of Skinner Auctioneers, appraisers of antiques and fine art, hosted a "What's It Worth?" night. He appraised fifty items, looking for that one elusive one which would make the owner an instant millionaire. True to Slavid's warning that "it never happens," the evening became a trip down memory lane: nearly all the items held more sentimental than monetary value. Nevertheless, it was great fun to hear the stories behind each item and realize that sentimental value is still worth its weight in gold.

The spring programs featured Dr. Ellen Knight talking about how the Aberjona River shaped Winchester while Winchester Shaped the Aberjona River, as well as Jack Kean talking about the history of the town seen through the eyes of the Rotary Club.

June first was again Town Day, and featured the perennial trolley tours and Strawberry Festival at Sanborn House. This was followed in the fall of 2013 by another joint event with the Library about the history of drinking in Boston, and a presentation in October of historic Winchester seen in vintage postcards.

## SAVE THE DATES:

On Sunday December 8th at 2pm WHS will once again host the traditional Holiday Party. This is a great time to see the Sanborn House decorated for the season and to usher in this wonderful time of year.

As the nation is commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Society will be hosting programs that will reflect both the issues that contributed to it and to the people who shaped it. On Tuesday February 4th Tom Lincoln, director of the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, will present a program around the theme "In Our Backyard." Mr. Lincoln will be speaking about slavery in New England, focusing on the Royall House, as it was probably the largest slave-holding site in 18th-century New England. On Tuesday May 20th Steve Wood of Claremont NH will be making a presentation in which he will impersonate Abraham Lincoln. ■



Contagious enthusiasm flowed from the joyous performance of McCall Middle School's Jubilation Singers' at the Holiday Party. Photo by Walt Finneran



## New Year's Eve Party!

Imagine an evening of marvelous music, daring dancing, ravishing refreshments and the company of good friends. Combine that with an elegant location, and it's time to party as we welcome 2014! We'll ring in the new year with a glass of champagne, and in style. Dress your best --- black tie preferred --- and join us for a fundraiser at Sanborn House. Great appetizers and desserts served beginning at 9 pm -- all close to home and away from traffic and crowds. Come party!

# Taste for Great Luxury Led to Sanborns' Financial Ruin

## Sanborns in the News

by Ellen Knioght

Occasionally, while scanning old newspapers on other subjects, the name Sanborn serendipitously meets my eye and adds to our knowledge of the first family of Sanborn House.

One such instance reveals that Mrs. Sanborn chaired a committee of Unitarian ladies which gave a series of three "whist" parties early in 1910. The first two were for the ladies exclusively, held in the afternoon. The third was an evening party which included gentlemen. The teas were held at the Calumet Club, whose Hall was decorated for the occasion "with festoons of crepe, palms and ferns in general color scheme of red." After the final party, the newspaper reported who took the honors for the evening and divulged such details as "the coffee and chocolate table was decorated with red pinks" (carnations) and "sandwiches, olives, nuts and cake were also served the players." The last party also included entertainment with 3 songs sung and "received with much favor" by the supervisor of music in the public schools.

Mrs. Sanborn organized many functions in town, including noteworthy benefits for the new Winchester Hospital, and whist parties for the Ladies' Friends Society at her "hospitable home" held while the Sanborns still lived on Central Street. It may be supposed that whist was a popular game at Aigrement also.

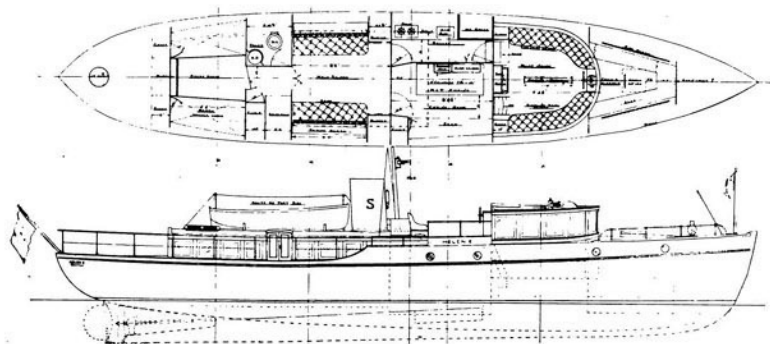
Mr. Sanborn's name is to be found on the front page of the Winchester Star of 25 August 1911 due to his love of boating. The Star reports that a 50-foot speed cruiser designed for him by F.D. Lawley was launched at the Lawley boatyard. However, an article in the 1911 edition of *The Rudder*, with drawings and a photograph, states that it was designed and built by Murray & Tregurtha of Boston (and confirmed by the Boston Globe.) Named for Sanborn's daughter, the "Helen E." is "quite heavily constructed with oak frames and planking of 1-1/4" hard pine. The cabin is finished in mahogany outside, with the main saloon and stateroom finished in white enamel with mahogany trimmings. The pilothouse is finished in mahogany throughout. . . .

"The builders state that Helen E. is one of the best all-round cruising boats they have put out and develops a speed of 11 knots per hour; also that she has proven herself an excellent sea-boat in the weather conditions met throughout the summer. The owner cruised last summer all about Cape Cod, Long Island Sound and along the coast of Maine, and speaks very highly of the boat's performance."

About a dozen years later, spending money on boats was one thing cited as a cause for Sanborn going broke.

THE RUDDER

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Sixty-Foot Power Cruiser Helen E. Designed and Built by Murray & Tregurtha, Boston, Mass.

### HELEN E.

THE photo and drawings are of Helen E, a 60-footer designed and built by Murray & Tregurtha, of South Boston, Mass., for O. C. Sanborn, of Boston.

The boat is quite heavily constructed with oak frames, and planking of 1 1/4-inch hard pine. The cabin is finished in mahogany outside, with main saloon and stateroom finished in white enamel with mahogany trimmings. The pilothouse is finished in mahogany throughout.

The machinery consists of a four-cylinder, 40-60-h.p. 7 1/2 by 10-inch Murray & Tregurtha, with the fuel tanks under the pilothouse, on each side, which gives a passage-way from crew's quarters to the engine room, permitting the engineer to travel back and forward without disturbing the guests in the pilothouse or main cabin. The builders state that Helen E is one of the best all-round cruising boats they have put out and develops a speed

of 11 knots per hour; also that she has proven herself an excellent sea-boat in the weather conditions met throughout the Summer.

The owner cruised last Summer all about Cape Cod, Long Island Sound and along the coast of Maine, and speaks very highly of the boat's performance.

The cabin arrangement works out very well and the glass sash aft permits the maximum of ventilation while the raised deck forward provides the necessary seaworthiness.

The general dimensions are as follows:

Length o. a. ....	60 feet 6 inches
Length w. l. ....	54 " 6 "
Breadth, extreme ....	11 " 6 "
Breadth on l. w. l. ....	10 " 6 "
Draught .....	3 " 9 "



Helen E. 40-60-H.P. Murray & Tregurtha Engine. Owned by O. C. Sanborn, Boston, Mass.





## Much Renovation Continuing at Sanborn House

### Stained Glass Window is Removed for Conservation

After decades of neglect, Sanborn House's central art glass window, "Summer Fountain," one of Winchester's most beautiful works of art, has been removed and sent out for restoration.

Serpentino Stained Glass Studio in Needham has been contracted to undertake the work, thanks to a generous grant from the Griffin Foundation, matched by private donations. Roberto Rosa and his crew of assistants from Serpentino, removed the window in September.

The glass was heavily soiled, the supporting lead came were warped and pieces of missing glass had been patched with green cellphane.



New plantings, brick walkway surround the Verandah

Garden to her. Donations are still being accepted for this lovely project.

Landscape Architect Martha Lyons' designs for the House grounds, funded by the Griffin Foundation, complement the period of the property. Boston Tree Preservation provided pro bono construction services, Richard Walsh of Minuteman Construction contributed a portion of the hardscape and site preparation, while Martha's grandson Jamie Lewis, owner of Extreme Landscaping, donated and installed the brick walkways. Some granite pieces from the old Marycliff Academy portico were reused to construct Verandah stairs. Mahoney's Garden Centers contributed generously to the start of the project, donating plant materials and trees to the front entryway garden. ■

Lying horizontally on a large workbench, the window will be dismantled, cleaned and rebuilt by hand, with a faithful recreation of the missing pieces of Tiffany-style opalescent and layered glass.

The window is expected to be re-installed sometime this coming January. Meanwhile, it has been interesting to have a much greater amount of daylight in the upper stairhall. ■

Nancy Schrock

### House Sitters Needed!

The Winchester Historical Society is looking for reliable house sitters to assist with private events rentals at the Sanborn House. Assignments are scheduled as needed and pay \$15/hour. Applicants must be reliable, have regular weekend availability (and sometimes weeknights) and have excellent references. Training about the Sanborn House and its systems will be provided. Please contact Site Manager Mergen Kelsey at 781.721.0135 or [manager@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:manager@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

Roberto Rosa directs removal of "Tuscan Garden," Sanborn House's signature art glass window.

# More Sanborn House News



This French bombé curio cabinet and the urn atop it were part of a gift of objects originally in the Sanborn House.

Photo by John McConnell

## Gifts from the Past: Interpreting the Sanborn House

by Nancy Schrock, Curator of Collections

Each time you visit the Sanborn House, you will notice additions to our collections of art and artifacts. These document either the history of Winchester or the history of the Sanborn House. All are the result of generous donations.

This summer we received a significant gift from Mary Hamlin, grand-daughter of Oren and Rena Sanborn, who built the House. Among the objects in her bequest is a beautiful bombé curio cabinet in the French Rococo style, a Neoclassical glass and gold-plated brass urn and a leather and wood chair with a family crest (see page 7.) We are fortunate to have received photographs from the current owner of the original dining room furniture, and now own three original chairs.

These acquisitions provide hints about how the Sanborns decorated their grand new home. Like the building itself, the furnishings reflect both the lighter French style of the Music Room and the heavier wood and plaster of the English Early Renaissance style of the Dining Room.

During the coming years we will be photographing and cataloging our collections, then entering both images and descriptions into an online catalog that will be available through the Historical Society's website. We welcome volunteers to join the project in January. If you have ever wanted to work in a museum or be more involved

in preserving Winchester's past, please contact Margen Kelsey at 781.721.0135, or send an email to Nancy Schrock at [curator@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@winchesterhistoricalsociety.org). ■

## New Tenants Helping to Renovate Second Floor Rooms

Three new businesses have recently moved into Sanborn House and renovated rooms on the second floor.

Paul Collins and his company, LabNew England, occupy a room, as does architect Fulton Harley of FLH Architects and John McConnell of McConnell+Partners Architects Inc. McConnell has also had his fine art painting studio in the house for several years.

Collins occupies the room renovated last year as an Eagle Scout project, while Harley and McConnell each had their own contractors renovate their rooms and provide modern lighting. ■



Architect Fulton Harley works in his newly-renovated Sanborn House office, which offers fine views of Winchester Center.  
Photo by John McConnell



# Photographs of Recent Historical Society Events



WHS Officers and Board Members pose during the annual Society Holiday party last December.  
Photo by Walter Finneran



This past winter was snowy --- and great for sledding on Sanborn House's hill.



A mother wild turkey and her chick visit Vittorio Ettore's teaching garden on the Sanborn House grounds.  
Photo by Fulton Hadley



Peter Wild presenting some of his Native American artifacts.  
Photo by Carol Keller



Jack Roll, John McConnell, Linda Whitehead, Peggy Roll and Rachel Roll at the annual Fundraiser.  
Photo by Walt Finneran



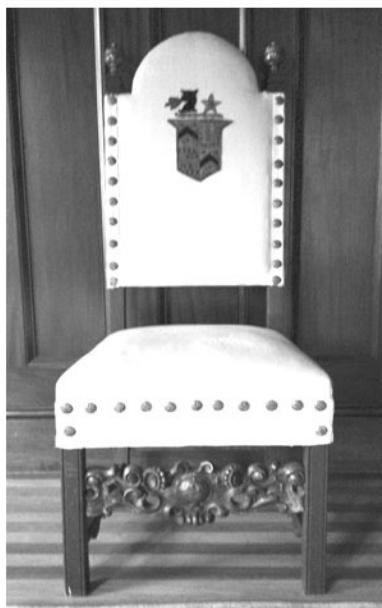
Jack Twomey, Susan Keats and Nancy Schrock enjoying the New Year's Eve Party elegance.



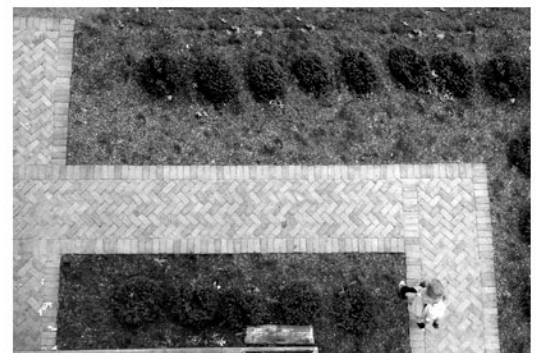
New Year's Eve revellers: (seated, from left) Jack Wallwork, Joan Wallwork and Rick McKenna; (standing, from left) Judy Manzo, Mike Manzo and Coleen McKenna.  
Photo by Walt Finneran



Caterers working in the newly upgraded Sanborn House kitchen during the Annual Fundraiser,  
Photo by Walter Finneran



An original Sanborn House dining chair, recently given by family descendants. Note the Sanborn coat-of-arms on the back.  
Photo by John McConnell



Looking down on the new Martha Spears Verandah Garden installation reveals the herringbone pattern of the brick paving.  
Photo by John McConnell



## The Winchester Historical Society

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The mission of the Winchester Historical Society is to promote and awareness of Winchester's rich history and share it with the community. The Society achieves its mission by collecting and preserving historic records and artifacts related to Winchester; by its educational programs, exhibitions and publications; and through its stewardship of the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center, which serves as the home of the Society and is open to the community for exhibits, meetings and events.

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John McConnell, editor

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