

THE ACADEMY BELL

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE WALPOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

www.walpolehistory.org

January 2015

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Museum Gift Shop

Saturdays
12 PM - 4 PM,
May to mid-October

*Editor: Tara Sad
Co-editor - Sally McGaffigan
Photos: Lowell Bauer*

Dear Friends,

We are currently considering the possibility of changing our name from the Walpole Historical Society to another name. The goal of any name change would be to make clear – to both occasional visitors to our town and local residents alike - how welcome they are to our premises. What do you think?

Called the Walpole Historical Society since our founding in 1930, perhaps our organization is ready for a change. In recent years, other “historical societies” around the country have revisited their original names in order to more actively welcome visitors. An interesting report on this nation-wide development appeared in The New York Times on October 26, 2014. A local example is the Peterborough Historical Society, which now operates The Monadnock Center for History and Culture.

Both the current directors and past presidents of the Historical Society have discussed this possibility of changing our name. I would like to invite our membership to contribute to the discussion. A new name for our organization, or for the building which houses our organization, could be a wonderful and positive way for us to communicate how available our premises are to the community and its visitors.

The most popular suggestions among the board of directors were:

Walpole Heritage Museum
Walpole Cultural Museum
Walpole Historical Museum
Walpole Museum of History and Culture

Please let me know your thoughts! Email me with your suggestions at christiewinmill@gmail.com or call me at 756-9019.

Meanwhile, planning continues for next season's exhibit, which will be the history of Walpole as told by a selection of objects. As always, please consider making suggestions as to those objects. Join us for the winter Ephemera Project, getting underway next week.

See you at our next event, “Colonial Walpole,” on January 17, 2015 at 7pm in the Town Hall – it promises to be fascinating!

Christie Winmill



Ray Boas as Henry Bellows greets visitors



Carolyn Norback and Jim Baucom as The Kilburns

CEMETERY TOUR

On Saturday, October 25th, the old Walpole Cemetery was once again visited by spirits of years past, and the spirits had just been dying for company!

The Walpole Historical Society has been producing these tours since 2002, and each one has featured a different cast of characters from Walpole's past, each person eager to talk about their lives with the gathered audience.

This year's tour featured Mr. & Mrs. John Kilburn (Jim Baucom and Carolyn Norback) who described the details of the terrifying attack by the Abenaki. Then the tour visited young Sarah Burt who died in the 19th century from the influenza (Maeve Perron), our illustrious founder, Col. Benjamin Bellows (Jack Pratt), Joseph Fay, Revolutionary War casualty (Mike Delaney), Martha Fessenden (Judy Epstein), Rebecca Bellows (Lucy Weber), Orrel Townsley (Joan Balla), Mr. Graves (Cindy Westover), and Rev. Henry Bellows (Ray Boas). The tour, as always, was led through the beautiful cemetery by our own 'Funeral Director' - Bill Perron.

We want to thank all of these volunteers who agreed to become the spirits of Walpole's past, and special thanks to the people who came to see history 'come to life'.

Gift Shop

We want to thank everyone for the successful season we have had at our Gift Shop this year-- Every one who volunteered to work, all of you who supported us by your purchases, and the wonderful Artisans who allowed us to consign the items to sell in the shop. Thanks so much!

We were at the Friends of the Library Book Sale in October with many of our gift items and it was great to see you all there.

We had a wonderful day on November 22nd with our sales! The churches, schools and Farmers Market all joined together to advertise and be open the same hours, and it turned out to be a great community shopping day. It was such fun to have the Museum buzzing with activity and people browsing and buying in preparation for Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you in the Spring when we open our Museum doors for a new season. Special thanks to Dorothy Galloway who made so many phone calls to help remind us all of the hours we were scheduled to work on Saturdays.

Have a great winter. Thanks so much!!

Joan and Sally



SCHOOL IS IN SESSION AGAIN AT THE ACADEMY MUSEUM!

Once again the chatter of children could be heard in our beautiful Academy School. On November 13, 2014, the Walpole School third through fifth graders stepped back in time to tour our historic town and Academy Museum. Third graders were treated to a slide show and lesson from the NH State Historical Society presenters. Students got the chance to view and touch artifacts from the traveling classroom. Our third and fourth graders used the WHS walking tour maps to identify local points of interest. Fifth graders have been learning about architecture, and were able to use their skills to identify our beautiful variety of homes. Additionally, each class had the chance to tour the Academy Museum. Some of the favorite highlights of the trip were Colonel Bellows' large stocking, the old telephone switchboard, Civil War Memorabilia and the old restroom stalls, which are still in the basement! Ann Rogers, a former student of the old Walpole High School, and beloved retired Walpole School teacher, treated the children to a brief lecture of "what it was like to attend school in the good old days!"

Ann's colorful stories and memories were a highlight of the day. The children were full of questions for her. It was wonderful to hear the merriment and excitement of the youngsters. If these hallowed walls could talk, surely they would be smiling and celebrating to know that Walpole Students were once again gracing their halls!.

Jackie Ronning

Adelina

Nov. 13, 2014

Dear Historical Society
Members,

Thank you so much for letting both 5th grade classes to come over. I loved every thing about it. You did a wonderful and beautiful job. The dresses are very beautiful. The pictures are more than magnificent. The phone is unique. The class room is splendid.

Sincerely,
Adelina
Pope

Nov. 13, 2014

Dear Historical society Members,

Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to show us around. I always enjoy visiting The Historical society and seeing all the interesting exhibits. My favorite thing in the whole museum is Louisa May Alcott's piano. All off you guys are so nice to allow us to come. Walpole has such an amazing history and I always want to learn more about it.

sincerely,
Sophia

Wall to Wall with Holiday Cheer

It must have been the very frigid evening air or perhaps the sometimes-a-tadslippery climb up the candlelit walkway, but something inspired the “hearty New Englanders of Walpole to gather in force for the annual Holiday Party.

Jackie Ronning made sure that the traditional luminaria cast a glow as guests approached the Academy. Tables nearly groaned with delectable offerings from which to choose. Bill Perron’s succulent smoked turkey and Lucy Weber’s delicious ham, both party traditions, filled the main gallery with enticing aromas. Bartenders Tom Winmill and Tom Goins kept the libations coming. Friends packed both sides of the Academy’s first floor with holiday good cheer, and it was heard more than once, “This huge crowd reminds me of the old days!”


The place to see and be seen was certainly the Annual Holiday Party, and it’s a tradition that makes our town of Walpole so special.



Above: Great food, beautiful decorations and friends old and new

Left: Jackie Ronning braves the elements to light the luminaria

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Volunteer Opportunities

The Perfect Winter Pastime - Archive Activities at the Academy

Jan. 8, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.

It's so nice to have somewhere to gather on these dark winter days and be involved with an activity that's not only helpful but very interesting, too! We're talking about meeting other volunteers at the Academy to help with various tasks involving our collections.

The Garment Group will be storing last year's displays, assessing new donations, as well as launching this spring's exhibit, "Walpole - Our Story in 25 Objects." An attention to detail, a spark of creativity and curiosity, and an interest in antique clothing will be the appeal for volunteers wishing to work with this group.

In the library, the Ephemera Group will be exploring, assessing, cataloging, and archiving the fascinating documents, photographs, and bits of paper that could have been throw away decades ago. These items give us a real peek into Walpole's past.

Volunteers need a sense of adventure because there is no telling what we may discover.

Your help is needed, and hopefully you will find that we have a great time together as we learn more about our hometown. If you are unable to come to **our informational meeting, on Jan. 8th**, volunteers will meet on Wednesdays from 1:00 until 4:00 and Thursdays 10:00 until 1:00. Please join us!

GOOD BYE AND THANK YOU, SUE BAUER

Sue Bauer, longtime Walpole resident and invaluable tech guru for the Walpole Historical Society, has moved to the Buffalo, New York area. According to a past president of WHS, Sue brought us "into the 21st century". She developed and maintained the WHS website, oversaw the emailing of the Academy Bell and other important communications, designed posters and publicity electronically and developed and upgraded the membership database. Her technological experience and assistance was crucial to our operation.

The Walpole Historical Society thanks Sue for all she did while she was with us.

We will miss you, Sue, and wish you the best in Buffalo





A New Tradition:

Tavern Night

For the second year, WHS members and guests gathered for our new seasonal party known as Tavern Night. This autumn event was first initiated in 2013 to welcome the arrival of the 1795 Watkin's Tavern Sign to the museum. This rare and wonderful original sign once welcomed weary travelers and local guests such as Col. Benjamin Bellows, a town founder, to Watkin's Tavern. The original tavern still stands on Prospect Hill, and the Town of Walpole has lent this important artifact to the museum for all to enjoy. Tavern Night has now become a good reason to welcome the autumn season to Walpole as visitors enjoy "tavern fare," a beautiful fall evening, and a gathering of friends.



Speaker Series 'CEMETERIES AND GRAVESTONES'

On November 7th, speaker Glenn Knoblock visited the Walpole Town Hall to give his presentation entitled 'New Hampshire Cemeteries and Gravestones; of the 'Humanities on the Go' Speaker Series through the NH Humanities Council. His fascinating talk was illustrated by rubbings, photographs and slides which showed the rich variety of graves, many of which can be seen in our own Walpole cemetery.

The audience left with a new understanding of the meaning behind many of the symbols and iconography on our historic markers.



WHS Pres. Christie Winmill with Guest Speaker Glenn Knoblock



Presidents Past and Present

Past presidents of the Walpole Historical Society gathered for lunch and to discuss the past, present, and future of the Walpole Historical Society. Pictured (from left) are Merv Stevens, Tara Sad, Sue Vose, Peg Dion, Barbara Hunter, Donna Drouin, and Christie Winmill.

Genealogy News



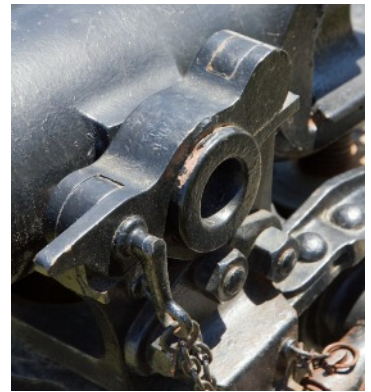
Genealogy Workshops will continue in 2015. The next ones will be January 10 and February 7. These workshops are available to anyone interested in pursuing a hunt for family information, whether beginner or experienced. We prefer to have a small group in order to give each individual attention. We cover pedigree charts, family group sheets and resources for research including internet search. There are sites for cemetery information and census. We have had attendees with Stone Walls discover new paths for discovery. Recently, the advanced group helped an individual discover a missing link that had eluded her for years. Everyone should know at least their eight great grandparents and be able to pass this information on to their grandchildren.

What is it?

This photo shows a small portion of something most of us see often here in Walpole.

The first person to identify what this is will win a prize from the Walpole Historical Society Gift Shop.

Call Tara Sad (756-4861) with your guess - and good luck!!



Walpole Historical Society
P. O. Box 292
Walpole, NH 03608



Speaker Series #7

Colonial Walpole with Jere Daniels

Saturday, January 17, 2015, 7:00 pm

Walpole Town Hall

'Governor Wentworth'