

Immediate Press Release
Tewksbury Historical Society
David E. Marcus
978-388-7262

Annual New Members Meeting - March 25, 2017

The Tewksbury Historical Society will be having the Annual *New Members Meeting* on March 25, 2017. This Meeting was originally started back in 2002 and gives the Society a mixture of historical presentations or exhibits to teach people the town's glorious history. Why glorious, because on March 25, 1:00-4:00pm in the Tewksbury Library we will have two exhibits and two speakers. Or as the math society says, "four for the price of none". Let me explain. The Society has been using a display cabinet in the lobby to show photographs. We first had a display of photographs in the summer depicting the "Heath Brook site" that was a collection donated to us by Pam Lucy Hatten. One was a photograph of a corn field, now the empty asphalt parking lot behind the Jon Ryan Pub. Why is a corn field relevant to Tewksbury's history? This corn field is perhaps the oldest corn field in eastern United States. The United States are not even as old as this site because it is a documented Native people's site. The head archaeologist of the Massachusetts Historic Commission did a "dig" there and calculated the site was a Native people site *going back 5,000 years!* Go to the Local History Room in the library and look at the Indian artifacts found in that field, oops, asphalt parking lot by the Lucy Family.

Then Society had a contest to see what the 35 glass Coke bottles (6.5 oz) had in common. The correct answer is on the bottom of the glass bottle, it is imprinted on the glass where the bottle was filled. So the collectible answer is that each Coke Bottle was unique because of where they were filled, making them all different.

The third exhibit featured schools in Tewksbury in September and the present exhibit is pictures of Tewksbury in winter. The *New Members Meeting* will have a small exhibit of women's clothing from the late 1800's donated by Judy Garland. Not the Judy Garland who was an actress but this Judy was a daughter of one of the Society's founding mothers - Mary Garland, who grandmother wore these clothes in the late 1880 to 1900.

The *New Members Meeting* will also have a Revolutionary War theme. David Marcus, Society President, will give a brief talk on Tewksbury's Private Jacob Frost who was in the Battle of Lexington-Concord and the Battle of Bunker Hill. While he fought bravely, it is what happened to him after the battle that will astound you. Truly, a brave and patriotic story will be told. The second speaker was supposed to be about a Revolutionary War Doctor Hobbs, told and re-enacted by Brian Cortez. Unfortunately, Brian had to abruptly change plans to visit an ill mother-in-law that day and so we had to take him off the agenda (family comes first) and we will see plenty of him. He is a Massachusetts 2nd Regiment re-enactor and will be at the April 9, 2017, event. Somehow, Robert Hayes of the library staff had an author, Rick Beyer, who was available and Mr. Beyers will step up and do a talk on his book, [Rivals unto Death: Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr](#). Mr. Beyer will be selling copies of his book and autographing them at the close of his talk. How did Robert Hayes know we needed a fill-in for Brian?

Beyers will explore the epic history of Hamilton and Burr's illustrious and eccentric political careers and their fateful rivalry. Learn about the largely unknown three-decade dance that led to the infamous duel. He will trace the rivalry back to the earliest days of the American Revolution, when both men, brilliant, restless, and barely twenty years old, elbowed their way onto the staff of General George Washington. Follow them as they launch their competitive

legal practices in New York City and through the insanity of the election of 1800 when Hamilton threw his support behind Thomas Jefferson in an effort to knock Burr out of the running for president. Discover what ultimately led them to the dueling grounds from which just one would emerge.

This is a free event for the public. Our Society Store will be set up and refreshments will be served on a "Free Will Offering" basis. We do hope that people will support the Society because after all, it is Tewksbury's Society. A new "Carnation Capitol of the World" poster will be on sale at this event.

Future events will be the 3rd Annual Re-enactment of the April 19, 1775, start of the Massachusetts Revolution will start at 1:30pm at the Tewksbury Common and then after Re-enactors talk with the Unknown Rider who comes to warn Tewksbury about the British Regulars marching on Concord. Tewksbury will respond and fire off musket shots to call the Tewksbury Minutemen and Militia Companies to muster at Tewksbury Common. After everyone arrives (last year we had 30 re-enactors), we will march up East Street (Boston Post Road in 1775) to Lee Street (still Boston Post Road) and then right on Chandler Street to Concord. The re-enactment will stop at the Library for a musket salutes to the 100 Tewksbury men who marched that day. Tewksbury actually had 206 men who were veterans of various battle of the Revolutionary War. The most fabulous history to come from this is that only a handful of towns were in this fight. Andover and Dracut marched but chased the battle. Tewksbury was in the battle. Soon the Tewksbury Historical Society will submit that proof to America that Tewksbury was there. The Society has been working on this research and if this thesis is accepted for publication, we will be able to stand proud to say, "Our men left Tewksbury that day, April 19, 1775, as British citizens and they came back to Tewksbury as Americans!" This event made world history. If Massachusetts towns like Tewksbury can stand up and defeat the British that day, why can't other British Empire nations like Ireland, India, and countries under British rule become independent, have self-rule and tax ourselves without being subject to the King of England? This is called the "shot heard round the world." Be proud Tewksbury, we started America and the Tewksbury Historical Society will prove that to the world !

Even if you don't join the Society, come to these two events and "March with the Patriots". Last year we had only 31 people watch the Re-enactment but we had 60 Tewksbury Residents march behind the Tewksbury Fire Department Honor Guards after the Re-enactors led the march. Then we had 81 people watch the re-enactors and the speakers at the Library. We will have more re-enactors (after all we had 100 men march to Concord that day) but will we have more public marchers? There is a movement underway to recruit a group of adults from Tewksbury to join in honoring our forefathers who marched. David Marcus, Society President, has many pieces of clothing for people to dress up their sons and daughters, even with a mock musket. Come and help us re-live Tewksbury history. More information about this re-enactors group will be available at the New Members Meeting. Email the Society with questions at info@tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org.