



# THE ACADEMY BELL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE WALPOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

[www.walpolehistory.org](http://www.walpolehistory.org)

May 2015

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### Officers:

President: Christie Winmill  
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### Coordinator of Museum Exhibits:

Paula Schwenk  
Andrea Goins

### Museum Gift Shop

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

*Editor: Tara Sad*

*Co-editor - Sally McGaffigan*

*Photos: Lowell Bauer*

Dear Friends,

Come to Opening Day on May 30 at the Walpole Historical Society!

Opening Day will begin with registration at 8 am for our first ever 5K event, the "Past Dash" – open to runners and walkers. The Dash course starts on the Museum lawn at 9 am, and follows a route past buildings of historical interest. We will have refreshments and activities on the lawn as we remain open throughout the day. We invite everyone to participate in the "Past Dash" and then to visit the museum.

All members and visitors are welcome to visit our museum, newly named the Walpole Heritage Museum. We hope that the new name conveys a little more clearly the kind of museum the Walpole Historical Society operates and that our activities and exhibits communicate the full extent of our welcome.

This year's exhibit, entitled "Walpole Short Stories," is intended to have something for everyone. We plan to exhibit a combination of old favorites as well as recently donated objects and other objects which have not been displayed in years, or possibly ever. Every object will be accompanied by its story – describing where it came from, or who gave it to the Historical Society, or how it fits or does not fit into the history of Walpole. We hope everyone will enjoy the stories and objects, ranging from the familiar to the unexpected.

How can you get more involved with the Walpole Historical Society? If you know of someone with an interesting story to tell, please let us know for our Speaker Series. If you are a member of an organization, please bring your fellow members for a visit – we can easily schedule a special time to be open. If you would like to donate an object of historical interest, please let us know. We seek to collect, preserve, and exhibit the history of this town and we invite your participation.

See you at the Walpole Heritage Museum!

Christie Winmill

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*(Above) Sally and Dorothy manning the registration table with members waiting to dig in to the delicious dinner.*



*(Right) Charlie getting a closer view of photo image as Ray and Jan are describing the secrets hidden within*

## Annual Meeting

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Approximately 65 members of the Walpole Historical Society gathered for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Walpole Town Hall. As always, the members outdid themselves with the many delectable dishes they brought to share, and all were delighted that the first order of business was to eat them! While we were happily munching away, President Christie Winmill introduced Ray Boas, who gave his Treasurer's Report. Tara Sad followed with a report from the Nominations Committee. The slate of Trustees for this year will remain the same, with the addition of Bill Ranauro, who will be taking Tara's place on the board. The members voted unanimously for the new board members. The proposed Officers of the WHS are: Christie Winmill - President, Andrea Goins - Vice President, Sally McGaffigan - Secretary, and Ray Boas - Treasurer. Officers will be elected by the board at their next meeting.

Christie gave a great President's Report, chronicling the wonderful things accomplished last year, and giving a rundown of the many events planned for the upcoming year.

The business part of the program complete, the members were then treated to a fascinating presentation of hidden images in the many period photographs of Walpole Ray has amassed. I for one will never look at old photograph the same again!

Thanks to all the members who came and helped to make our Annual Meeting a success.

Tara Sad

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## Gift Shop

We are excited about our Gift Shop opening again, and welcome everyone to come and see what's new, browse and buy from the many interesting gift and home items we have. Candles, candles and more candles!. We will stock many colors and also a new size this year as well as our regular 9" tapers. We are going to try some 12" tapers, and maybe some of the pillar type candles just for variety. Come on in and look them over. Pictures, note cards, napkins and Ray Boas' books on Walpole, too. We have maps of Walpole and some of the wooden door topper "homes and places of interest of Walpole" for sale. We will also have the Vermont Stoneworks coasters, trivets and thermometers that use alcohol- NOT mercury. So much better for our environment.

Our hours remain the same as last year—12 noon to 4pm on Saturdays. Please come join us to view our new exhibits, browse in our shop and meet your friends and neighbors. Please also remember that we cannot staff the Museum and Gift Shop without your help. Check on our website to see our schedule of open dates and sign up to work a shift or two. Contact either Joan at 756 -3078 or Sally at 445- 2527 .

Joan and Sally



## Family History as a Medical Tool

Jeanne & Peter Jeffries

Doctors are trained to ask about family history when making a diagnosis. It is a tool that sometimes is overlooked. Often patients do not have much family history at their fingertips when visiting a doctor. A recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association talked of the difficulties involved in collecting a family history. It is important since “things run in families”.

Quoting from the article: “family history remains one of the most important resources available to help clinicians identify potential health risks and personalize care of their patients. Empowered with information from the family history, clinicians can guide their patients to take preventive steps and initiate mitigating strategies to reduce disease risk. For example, if a physician knows that a patient has a history of familial hypercholesterolemia, the physician can encourage the patient to make lifestyle changes or, if appropriate, take medication to reduce his or her risk for heart disease.”

Peter and Jeanne Jeffries have emphasized the importance of family history to future generations as they present their Genealogy Workshops. Each attendee is advised to add medical information to the Family Group sheets as they collect it. Not just Cancer or Heart Disease, but other medical information like arthritis or asthma or kidney disease or congenital anomalies.

Again quoting from the article by Brandon M. Welch, MS, PhD, a “collection tool, developed by the US Surgeon General, is called “My Family Health Portrait.”<sup>2</sup> The premise of such family history tools is 2-fold: first, patients will have greater access to family information outside a clinic visit and thus be able to collect more accurate family history information without time constraints. Second, when a patient returns to the clinic with his or her completed family history, the clinician can focus on using that information to guide a patient’s care rather than collecting it.”

Jeanne & Peter are planning a workshop on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12 noon and the second one is scheduled for Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>, again from 10 am to 12 noon. Both of these will be at the Academy Building. Please make your reservations early by calling 756-2933. The class is limited to 10 people. Watch for further announcements on the Academy web page or in the newspaper. Your grandchildren will appreciate your information.



**WALPOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Speaker Series 11**

# **Exemplary Country Estates of New Hampshire**

with  
**Cristina  
Ashjian**



**Friday  
May 29  
7:00 PM**

In the early 20th Century, the New Hampshire Board of Agriculture launched a program to boost the rural economy and promote tourism through the sale of abandoned farms to summer residents. After introducing the country house movement, Cristina Ashjian focuses attention on some of the great country estates featured in the NH program between 1902 and 1913. Which private estates were recognized as exemplary, and who were their owners? Using historic images and texts, Ashjian discusses well-known estates now open to the public such as The Fells on Lake Sunapee, The Rocks in Bethlehem, and Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish.

**Walpole Town Hall**

The Historical Society welcomes everyone to this free event.

## Walpole Heritage Museum 2015 Exhibit 'Walpole Short Stories'

The last couple of years our museum curators have presented a variety of "themes" as a focus for the new season's exhibit. We were able to follow the life of "Abigail," a young Walpole woman in the late 1800's as she traveled, became a wife, mother, matron, and finally a widow. Last year we considered life in Walpole as it reflected the times of Theodore Roosevelt and then Franklin Roosevelt.

This year the curators have broadened the definition of theme so that a variety of short, interesting stories of Walpole could take center stage.

"Walpole Short Stories," this year's new exhibit, will give insight into Walpole facts known and perhaps, not so well known.

The piano in the museum's main gallery? Yes, that is the one lent to Louisa May Alcott when her family summered here. Louisa and her sisters enjoyed a very active social life during their Walpole visits. Learn what kept the girls occupied in "Walpole Short Stories." Museum visitors will see a wonderful photograph of Walpole's turn of the century fire department. Their story will explain why there's a bold "M" initial on their shirt uniforms instead of a "W" for Walpole.

There are over thirty "short stories" of Walpole to intrigue visitors this season at the Walpole Heritage Museum. Long time Walpole residents and day-trippers alike are sure to see something to catch their



# WALPOLE SHORT STORIES

WALPOLE  
HERITAGE  
MUSEUM  
2015 Exhibit

Saturdays 12:00 - 4:00  
May 30th - October 24th



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## Ephemera - What Is It and Why It Kept Us Busy This Winter

Ephemera is the stuff of everyday: the ticket, the program, the invitation, the letter, the advertisement that is meant to be read or used once and then discarded. Happily, the Historical Society archives are full of these little reminders of days gone by that somehow escaped the waste bin. So much is revealed about everyday life from these snippets.

This past winter, volunteers met on Wednesdays and Thursdays to organize these scraps from yesterday into groupings for further research. In fact, the entire archive library got a remodel and reorganization. Archives are now easier to access in their new storage, and bold labeling makes it easier to spot just what one might be looking for.

With the gray days of winter causing the onset of cabin-fever, volunteers enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow history-lovers as they sat under the warm glow of the new radiant heating units. Discoveries were shared, a few hours were enjoyed away from the house, and a lot of needed organizing was accomplished.

Ephemera volunteers can enjoy the summer weather and the out-of-doors until a gloomy, rainy day is in the forecast. We're officially "on vacation" until it looks like a good day to be inside. When that happens, please be on the lookout for an email shout-out to gather at the Walpole Heritage Museum again. "Step 2" of our archive plan is ready to launch. It will be a good time to catch up with one another's summers and to welcome new volunteers, too, as we share a favorite interest...Walpole history.



## Volunteers Needed!

We are about to begin a new year at our newly re-named **Walpole Heritage Museum** and hope that you are as excited about this as we are! Opening day is Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>. We hope everyone comes to join in on the Past Dash event and visit the Museum and Gift Shop.

As an “all volunteer” organization, we depend on our members to help with staffing the many Saturdays in the gift shop and museum, and to assist with the great events that are planned this year. We hope these will be of interest to you as a “worker” and as well as a participant. We also welcome your ideas for events in the future. Everyone’s ideas are important, and we want to vary the fund raisers as well as fun events so we can capture your interests and gain your support.

If you would like to serve on any committee we would LOVE to hear from you. There are so many opportunities for volunteers, and to name just a few they include:

Helping to call members to work on a Saturday at the Museum, helping with refreshments for events, assisting with the sorting of documents and ephemera. So much has already accomplished in the Museum, but there is still so much to do.

The Board of Directors thanks everyone who has helped in any capacity and sincerely hopes you will offer to work on a committee or help on Saturdays. Please contact any one of us if you have an interest or idea or a question. We want to hear from you.

*(Right) Andrea Goins, Carole Cramer, Chris Burchstead and Ray Boas having a great time sorting through archives and ephemera*



## Marcia Schmidt Blaine Runaway Wives: When Colonial Marriages Failed

When 18th century wives tired of the marriage contract, they could run, but they could not hide. Husbands chased them down via newspaper ads, effectively removing their sources of credit and income. In the vocabulary of the war between the sexes, one reads of surprisingly enduring economic and social barriers to runaway wives. Marcia Schmidt Blaine explored this Colonial era challenge in the eighth of our Speaker Series on March 6th at the Walpole Town Hall.

# 5k Past Dash

A Run or  
Walk Past  
Some of  
Walpole's  
Historic  
Places



Walpole  
Heritage Museum  
Opening Day  
Fun for All!

Registration

**\$15**

Kids Under 12  
Are Free

**Saturday  
May 30th**

Registration  
Includes  
Race Bibs and  
Fun Giveaways

To Register, go to [walpolehistory.com](http://walpolehistory.com) or register  
at 8:00 AM on the Walpole Heritage Museum lawn.



## What Is It?

This is a close-up photo of an object in the Historical Society's collection.

The first person to identify the item will win a prize from our Gift Shop.

Call Tara at 756-4861 with your guess. Good luck!