



Hopkinton Historical Society **NEWS**

Celebrating the history of our town!

P.O. Box 423, Hopkinton, MA 01748
Volume 4, Issue 1 (Feb 2009)

The Hopkinton Historical Society is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving our Town's history. All donations are tax-deductible.

Board of Directors:

- Bill Shaw, President
- Karen Adelman, Vice President
- Roger Mezitt, Treasurer
- Tina Berlad, Secretary
- Melanie Smith, Board Member
- Claire Wright, Board Member
- Barbara Dobson, Board Member
- Merylyn Mezitt, Board Member
- Ron Yankee, Board Member
- David Spengler, Board Member

Newsletter Editors:

- Gail Clifford
- Merylyn Mezitt

Contact us:

For newsletter questions and possible news items, contact Gail Clifford at (508) 435-6423 or send e-mail to gmunroc@aol.com
 For other Historical Society matters, contact Bill Shaw at (508) 435-0074 or send e-mail to willsshaw@msn.com.

Upcoming dates:

- Feb 22: Gaslight Era Music
- Mar 15: Appalachian Trail

In this issue:

- Commemorative T-shirts.....1
- Looking to the HHS future.....2
- Calendar of events.....3



Hopkinton Historical Society

Introducing Hopkinton historical landmark T-shirts for HHS fundraising

This month, the Hopkinton Historical Society is launching a new fundraising effort, the sale of Hopkinton historical landmark T-shirts. This effort has been spearheaded by Annie Marcy, a long-time member of the Historical Society, and her niece, Julie Snee, who provided the creative artwork to get us started. Our first T-shirt design features the World War I Memorial (“the Doughboy”) who stands guard over Hopkinton at the Town’s center. The Doughboy (pictured above) is shown in black and circled by a banner that reads “World War I Memorial – Hopkinton, Massachusetts”. The Historical Society insignia is inscribed below the image. This World War I Memorial was erected in the 1920s to honor the Hopkinton citizens who served in the first World War. Our initial batch of T-shirts is available in white or grey shirt colors, and sizes are medium, large, or extra large. The cost per T-shirt is \$15, and T-shirts can be ordered by completing and mailing the order form below. If all goes well, we expect to be drafting some additional T-shirt designs of other historical landmarks in the near future. Thank you, Annie and Julie, for your dedication and talents!

ORDER FORM: HISTORICAL LANDMARK (DOUGHBOY) T-SHIRTS
 COST: \$15.00 PER T-SHIRT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Quantity: _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large

Please specify color (white or grey): _____

Checks should be made payable to “Hopkinton Historical Society”, and sent along with the order form to HHS, P.O. Box 423, Hopkinton, MA 01748.

Looking to the future of the Historical Society

By Bill Shaw, HHS President

January seems like the time to take stock of where we've been, make new resolutions, and chart a course for the future. In this spirit, I thought I might take the liberty of "thinking out loud" with you about potential opportunities and challenges that we face as an organization in the upcoming years. So here are a few thoughts I wanted to share:

The Hayden Rowe Schoolhouse

Probably the most exciting change for the HHS in the near future will be re-opening of our building at 168 Hayden Rowe Street. This building will provide a regular meeting place for the Historical Society and a place to store, index, and display historical artifacts and documents. As most of you know, renovation and repairs to the building have been slow, largely due to the complexities of fundraising, the challenge of obtaining volunteer help from local contractors and technical schools, and the difficulties of renovating a 19th century schoolhouse while meeting modern building code requirements for utilities, wheelchair accessibility, and fire safety. In 2008, an entirely new furnace and HVAC ductwork system was installed, and I'm happy to say that the heat is now on! (as evidenced by the icicles now hanging from the eaves). Remaining work involves door upgrades, attic insulation, storm windows, bathroom fixtures, plaster repair, and some site-work. We're doing everything possible to open the building in 2009 while still working within our budget. The lack of a permanent open facility over the past few years has been a major obstacle for the Society in terms of maintaining a group identity, keeping historical records, and providing community outreach.

The Historical Archives

Arriving as a new resident to Massachusetts in 2000 (after 13 years in southern California), I can recall feeling quite taken with the historical look and charm of Hopkinton. Shortly after moving to Hopkinton in 2003, I heard of the Town's Historical Society (from Merylyn Mezitt, I believe), and I immediately pictured myself with magnifying glass in hand, sifting through old pictures and documents, learning about the curious exploits of citizens past. As a scientist, nothing appealed to me more than the prospect of reviewing and indexing old historical records. It wasn't until weeks later that I learned the archive of historical documents was temporarily unavailable pending renovations to the

Hayden Rowe building, and this has been a longstanding frustration ever since. Now, those of us with a penchant for sorting and organizing will get a chance to go to work as the HHS building is finally re-opened. And we'll definitely have our hands full. My hope is that we can schedule regular weekly library hours for public access and to allow volunteers regular time for indexing and preserving of historical records.

Education and Outreach

The opening sentence of the Historical Society By-Laws states that our primary objectives are to "study, collect, and preserve historical records and artifacts relating to the history of Hopkinton and its people" and to "foster a better understanding of the history and traditions of our town and neighboring communities". As we begin to index historical records at the HHS building, one thing to consider is how best to summarize, package, or illustrate this information for presentation to others. This could be in the form of slide shows, reports, speaker presentations, or exhibits that address various aspects of the Town's past. Although we have considerable work to do first, we should keep sight of this future goal.

Membership and leadership

Like the rest of America, the Historical Society membership is aging. In order to keep the organization strong, we need to attract new members, support programs and activities that are of general interest to the public, and find ways to ultimately transfer Society leadership to younger members. This is no easy task with all of the time pressures and demands that we face in our daily schedules and routines. With the help of Karen Adelman (our new membership czar), we hope to launch a more proactive membership campaign in 2009. Also, we should consider future programs that may have more widespread interest (e.g., historical programs for children) that might help to grow HHS membership.

Fundraising

As we resume the costs of maintaining our building on Hayden Rowe Street (for security, upkeep, insurance, utilities, etc.), this will increase the need for future fundraising efforts. On the other hand, the building will likely serve as an important catalyst for fundraising efforts, providing us with a location where we can demonstrate our service to the community. As it's been several years since a definitive "building fund" campaign was launched, perhaps we can re-invigorate these fundraising efforts after the doors are re-opened.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

February HHS Meeting "Music of the Gaslight Era" Sunday, February 22, 2 pm Hopkinton Fire Station (73 Main St) (open to public)

The program for our February meeting is "Music of the Gaslight Era (1890-1920)" to be presented by John Root, a local musician and educator. This program features a diverse repertoire of instrumental and vocal musical styles from the turn of the previous century. The lyrics of songs from this period offer unusual insights into the customs and values of these bygone days as well as the country's growing multicultural diversity. Music written during the Gaslight Era has created a unique musical style that continues to delight and inspire audiences around the world. Please join us for this delightful musical celebration.

More information about John Root can be found at www.johnroot.net.

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE HOPKINTON CULTURAL COUNCIL, A LOCAL AGENCY WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY.



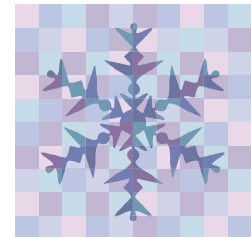
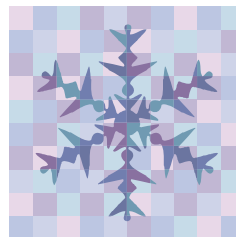
massculturalcouncil.org

"Not only is John a wonderful singer and musician, his voice fitting perfectly with songs from the Gaslight era, but his vast knowledge of music history is an unexpected treat. He is a charismatic and interesting teacher, along with his considerable musical talent"

- Bonnie Hurd Smith, Executive Director, Ipswich Historical Society, Ipswich, MA

March HHS Meeting Joint Meeting with Ashland HS "It's all about the weight: Georgia to Maine" Sunday, March 15, 2 pm (members only)

Each year we join our friends to the east (the Ashland Historical Society) for a joint meeting! This year, the program will involve a presentation about the Appalachian Trail from the perspective of George "The Sandman" Duane, a local writer and hiker. His talk will focus on the necessary equipment of a modern day explorer. The meeting will be held at the Ocean House, home of the Ashland Historical Society (2 Myrtle Street) at the corner of Water Street and Main Street in Ashland. Please join us for a wonderful program and reception.



*Blow, blow, thou winter wind.
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! Sing, heigh-ho! Unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.
Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remember'd not.
Heigh-ho! Sing.*

Excerpt from *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare



Hopkinton Historical Society

P.O. Box 423

Hopkinton, MA 01748