

AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dedicated to the Education
— and —
Preservation of Town History



41 South Street, Auburn Massachusetts 01501 – (508) 832-6856

Established 1967

Celebrating 50 Years of Preserving Auburn's History

Spring 2017

Big Changes thanks to Bay Path



After two years of planning and fund raising, students from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School in nearby Charlton, were finally able to come to the museum and install custom made drawers and new LED lighting in the Alex Pappas Museum Room. The addition of drawers in the three center cabinet sets allows for more room to display exhibits, and the addition of new lighting showcases our unique Auburn artifacts. See inside for more details and the list of donors responsible for this wonderful improvement!

Christmas Party a Success

Our annual Christmas Party was a wonderful success thanks to all who helped. Betty Murphy, as usual (with help from Jack!), managed the ticket sales, decorations, set-up and favors. Many members donated imaginative baskets and lots of tickets were sold. Bill Ela made a wonderful Santa, and Bill Morse provided music. The Elks donated the use of the hall and the food was, as always, delicious and plentiful. Everyone had a great time, and would have stayed late into the night if the Patriots hadn't been playing that evening!

Check out our New Website

Be sure to visit our new website at
www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org.

Feel free to send us items to add to the website!

Information on Auburn Hero Located by our Intern, Zach Washburn

Chester Percy Tuttle, the first man from Auburn to die in World War I, was of medium height, medium build and had blue eyes and dark brown hair. This is from his registration card for the Army. His occupation was listed as farmer and he worked for himself. He lived on Barnes St. and voted in precinct 1.



Auburn Historical Society

OFFICERS

President: Sari Bitticks
Vice President: Claudette Morse
Treasurer: Wayne Bloomquist
Secretary: Ellen Gaboury
Secretary Emeritus: Sonja Carr

DIRECTORS

Evelyn Bartlette
Ken Ethier
Jack Haroian *past president*
Rosalie and Roger LaCroix
Bill Morse
Dick Steelman
Bob Breault
Rich Hedin
Bob Haroian
Helen Poirier
Betty Murphy
Renee Peace
Fred Mirliani,
Museum Preservationist

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Evelyn Bartlette
Sari Bitticks
Robert Breault
Sonja Carr
Bob Haroian
Betty and Jack Murphy
Renee Peace
Dick Steelman

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Bill Ela
Bill Morse
Roger LaCroix
Jack Murphy
Dick Steelman

Renovation of the museum made possible by many friends

We were on the waiting list for two years, but it was well worth it. Bay Path was at the museum for about 6 full days. 14 future cabinet makers and 14 future electricians came each day with their teachers. They were very professional and extremely polite and careful. Everyone who watched them was very impressed. The teachers only advised, the students did all the work. We now have LED lights in all the cabinets, and the three center islands have been raised up about 15 inches, with storage drawers for research information, duplicate items, and artifacts to be rotated back into the exhibits every few months. Our curator, Renee Peace has worked tirelessly to get everything in their correct places. The displays are clean and crisp and , finally, easily viewed!

Thanks to all who donated for the museum restoration!

Special thanks to Mary Gough at Webster First Federal Credit Union
for her help in finding many of these donors!

Richard Hedin in memory of his mother Blanche	\$1,000
Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge	\$500
Auburn Chamber of Commerce	\$250
Auburn/Webster Lodge of Elks	\$250
Hometown Bank	\$250
Savers Bank	\$250
Webster 5 Cents Savings Bank	\$250
Webster First Federal Credit Union	\$250
Bertera Nissan	\$200
Orville and Carolyn Sheldon	\$200
Arcade Snacks	\$100
Capitol Siding Co., Inc.	\$100
Dan Carpenter in Honor of Lenihan-O'Rourke family	\$100
Interstate Transmission	\$100
Senator Mike Moore	\$100
Sheldon's Harley Davidson	\$100
SFD Reidy Realty LLC	\$100
PC-Plus Technologies, Inc.	\$100
Winchester Insurance	\$100
Holiday Inn Express & Suites	\$50
Sue Gauvin	\$50

Professional Historic Reenactor Coming to March Meeting.

Thanks to a grant from the Auburn Cultural Council, historical reenactor Lynne McKenney Lydick will be presenting *Yours for Humanity—Abby*, a one-woman play about Worcester's Abby Kelley Foster, 19th century abolitionist and women's rights activist, at our March meeting.

Lynne is an award-winning actress and activist who has portrayed Abby for many organizations, including a performance at Liberty Farm, the Foster's residence in the Tatnuck section of Worcester.

The event is March 21st at the Lorraine Gleick Nordgren Senior Center, 4 Goddard Drive at 6:30pm. Make sure you don't miss out on this amazing performance!



Photo by Betty Jenewin

Attention Dandies:

Do you know we have Auburn High School yearbooks for nostalgic viewing?

We also have Dandies magnets and coffee mugs for sale!



Cauldrons needed!

While we have the majority of AHS yearbooks, we are missing ones from 1996, 2004, and 2006-2014.

If you have one to share with us, we'd love to display it for all Dandies and Rockets to view!



Redesigned Auburn Police and Auburn Fire exhibit with new LED lighting

We become Auburn

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

An Act to change the name of the town of Ward.

Be it enacted as follows:

The name of the town of Ward in the county of Worcester, is hereby changed to the name of Auburn, and said town shall henceforth be known and called by the said last mentioned name, any thing in the act whereby the said town was incorporated, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved by the Governor,

February 17th, 1837.

Speakers for 2017

All meetings at 6:30 at the Senior Center 4 Goddard Dr. in Auburn

March 21: Lynne McKenney Lydick portrays Abby Kelley Foster in *Yours for Humanity—Abby*

April 18: Rev. Dennis Knight, Pastor of Pakachoag Church “*The Illustrated History of Silversmithing in the Town of Ward* “

May 16: Town Historian Ken Ethier interviews Jack Murphy about his life. **POT LUCK SUPPER!** Bring your favorite dish to share. 5:30 for this one.

Camp Gleason...A Bygone Time Remembered



It was a custom for many large companies to do something for their employees and their families, and American Steel and Wire was no exception. In 1940, members of the South Works Athletic Association began work on Camp Gleason, named for George A. Gleason, Superintendent of South Works, American Steel and Wire. The dedication was held May 31, 1942. There was a large clubhouse, used for social events and gatherings. Three outdoor fireplaces, picnic tables, showers, lockers and a refreshment stand made for an attractive place to spend the weekend. There were slides, a see-saw, a diving tower, a chute-the-chute and something called a "bathing crib for children". Buses brought people from the city to enjoy the facility. There were 1200 members of the South Works Athletic Assn. The members did the work, guided by A. William Larson, Chairman and committee members Harry Watson and John J. Murphy, father of our own Jack Murphy. Jack's sisters Ethel and Eileen worked the concession stand. Hot dogs that hit the ground were cleaned up and served, we hear. What a pity modern companies don't have places like this for their employees. Of course, one reason they did was to keep an eye on their people so they didn't party too hearty to work on Monday, or spend Saturday looking for work somewhere else!

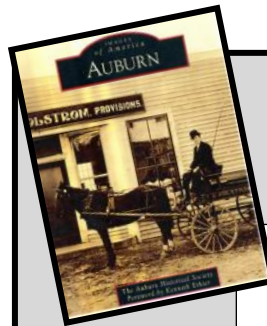
Additions to our Veterans' Collection

Special thanks goes out to Donald LaBrie, who donated many amazing historical artifacts, including the rare tin-type of his great-grandfather, Peter Archambeau, a Civil War soldier of the 21st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Donald also donated a World War I Navy Uniform, belonging to his father-in-law Arthur Peterson, which can be seen with other military uniforms in the entryway of the museum.



Thanks Donald!



AUBURN BOOK STILL AVAILABLE

We still have copies of the Images of America Auburn book, only \$22.

Special Thanks to Joe Pranaitis who maintains the Museum Grounds

Home/Fax
(508) 248-7048
Aeration
Spring Cleanups



THE GARDENER

Landscape Maintenance
JOE PRANAITIS – Owner

Thatching
Shrubs Trimmed
Edging

Since 1988
87 Smith Rd.
Charlton, MA 01507

(508) 832-4181
Mowing
Fertilizing
Liming

Call (508) 450-2199
Plantings
Snow Plowing



Auburn Historical Society
41 South Street
Auburn, MA 01501

Auburn Historical Museum Hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays

Board member Helen Poirier has created many theme books, which are available for research. The latest ones include: “Women in Auburn History”, “School Class Photos”, and “The Blackstone Canal and Auburn”. The books include articles, photos and items from our files relating to the topic.

