

Charlton Historical Society Newsletter

Autumn, 2002

Volume 27, Number 2

News for Historical Society Members

Fay Mountain Farm

The recent acquisition of the acreage of the Fay Mountain Farm, located on both sides of Cemetery Road, by the Town of Charlton is the last in an interesting series of transactions of this historic property



The Gilmore family, whose old farm was near Fay Mountain in Westboro, found that development pressure was causing problems for orchardists in the "suburbanizing" area east of Worcester. Snow's farm acreage was for sale and, at that time, Charlton had no development pressure and plenty of open space. The Gilmores transferred their operations to Charlton, bringing the name Fay Mountain with them.

In 1999, a series of misfortunes occurred which caused the Gilmore family to offer the farm for sale. Immediately, a group of citizens came into action to prevent development of the farm. After three years of discussion and negotiation, the Town of Charlton acquired the place this year as open space, the fire-damaged house was sold separately, and the Charlton Historical Society bought the nearly one-acre former tavern barn lot east of the tavern.

Charlton History Day-

Three Historic Sites will be having open house October 20th from 12:00-4:00 p.m. in the Historic District in Charlton, MA 252 Stafford St. in the Old Northside Village.

PAST EVENT

Tour the 203 year old Rider Tavern and enjoy period music in the Widow's Garden provided by the Heritage String Band. See the completed and on going restorations of the 15 rooms inside as well as the period gardens outdoors.

Take a step back in time and enjoy an afternoon Colonial Tea in the Tavern Ballroom. Costumed interpreters will be serving the Tavern's own blend of herbal tea and freshly baked gingerbread with old fashioned whipped cream for a fee (donation of \$5.00).

Across the street in the Old Militia Lot the Natick Minutemen and Needham West Militia Co. will have a demonstration of the making of musket balls and firing abilities. Learn what it was like to be a Freedom Fighter. There will be costumed interpreters telling stories of what it was like to attend school in a one room schoolhouse.

Music, refreshments, and children's games can be enjoyed at this site. Horse drawn wagon rides will provide transportation to all sites for children. It's a great day for the whole family

All festivities excluding the Tea are free of charge.

Apple Bisque From the kitchen of Cindy Cheever

12 apples mixed variety, peeled and cut

Cook apples in 2 cups water until tender.

Mash apples and add:

1 cup sour cream

1 cup light cream

1 tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. nutmeg

¼ - ½ cup maple syrup

Cook over low heat until warm.

Enjoy on a fall day.

Membership Update:

We have updated our mailing labels to include your membership status. Our 2002 season started in June after the annual meeting and paid memberships will be current until May Of 2003. Membership renewals are due in May of each year.

If your address label contains the following message, "Membership Status: 2002 Dues are due" Please complete the coupon in this newsletter and return it to us with your payment. As you know, your dues are used to continue the preservation of Charlton's history. At \$5 for an individual membership and \$10 for a family it is one of the best deals in town!

The society is solely funded through private and corporate contributions as well as local grants. We do not receive any funding through local taxes. All contributions are tax deductible. We keep our membership dues low in order to include all that are interested. We rely on the generosity of those that can afford more to help us by including a tax-deductible contribution with their membership application. We would like to thank all of you who have contributed in the past and those of you who are considering it now!

Reminder: If you mailing address changes, please let us know. If your newsletter is returned and we do not have your correct address you will be dropped from the mailing list. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, please contact Glenn Ellis at 508 248-7913.

The Widow's Third by Claudia LaCerte

Please stop by and visit the "Widow's Third" curiosity shop on October 20th located inside the Rider Tavern. The shop will feature work by local crafts people, soaps, creams, books, cookies etc. All proceeds help support the tremendous work of restoration of the Tavern, plus Claudia loves meeting people!

The Decorating Committee by Joyce Stewart

Our working season has begun at the tavern and more rooms have opened up for use by the Historical Society. The west wing of the first floor has been freshly painted a colorful mustard woodwork with parchment white walls and brick red doors for use as a meeting room, archives room and library. Don Weinhardt has

lead the work team in organizing file cabinets and archive material to this new, inviting space.

Glenn Ellis spent many hours constructing a wall of bookcases to hold the many reference materials useful to local history. Many winter hours will be spent categorizing and filing the archives for use by all interested historians.

The ongoing search for a local artist to replicate the Harvey Dresser lion fireboard continues as a grant from the Mass. Cultural Council was received for the project to begin this year. We have reviewed several artists' work and have more incoming for a decision to be made.

On September 20th the editor of The Decorator, Shirley Baer also affiliated with the Historical Society of Early American Decoration, visited our tavern to view the stenciling, graining and free hand painting on our walls. She will be featuring our tavern in the Spring journal. They were very impressed with the restoration and dedication of the Society.

We all should feel proud to have this terrific building and society in our town! Work continues throughout the building with painting done in the kitchen by Cindy Cheever, Joyce Stewart and Courteney Blais. Cindy and her son scrubbed the walls in the east hallway to reveal the wood batten boards. Slowly the progress winds through the building towards the east wing. Please come visit the tavern on October 20th and view the progress

Property Committee Report - Don Weinhardt This is an outline of archival and artifact donations received by the Charlton Historical Society since the beginning of this year: Maureen F. Ireland, Sturbridge, seven early booklets

published about New England life by Old Sturbridge Village and a redware mug; Cindy Cheever, Paxton, a tin sconce with mirror and one candle and a pair of white cotton stockings; Kevinetta C. O'Brien, Charlton, thirty three hard and soft cover books for our reference collection, a braided corn broom with wood handle, the Program for the last Mass conducted at the "Old" St. Joseph's Church on July 25, 2002, and a wood plaque, carved with the number "9", this was removed from pew number "9" in the "Old" St. Joseph's Church; Steven and Bonnie Clark, Charlton, a clear glass quart milk bottle embossed A.M. SNOW / GUERNSEY / MILK / CHARLTON; R. Reed Grimwade, Charlton, two soft cover books for our reference collection, and extensive business records, samples of fabric and office furniture from the Charlton Woolen Co.; Judith Maskell, Charlton, a booklet, "Dedication of Dexter Memorial Hall", 1905, and two early photo postcards, Main Street, Charlton, looking north and south; Lois S. Fay, Charlton, an early six board ships chest in very good condition, a soft cover book titled "Field Guide to Early American Furniture".

Thank you all for helping preserve Charlton's past.

Meet the Board of Directors

The following Charlton Historical Society Members were elected to the Board of Directors at our June Annual Meeting:

Officers:

President – Donald Weinhardt
Vice President – Glenn Ellis
Treasurer – Joyce Stewart
Correspond Secretary – Ken Amend
Clerk – Cindy Cheever
Archivist – William Hultgren

Members at Large

Curtis Abbott
LeeAnn Amend
Barbara Dean
Claudia Lacerte
Virginia Lawler
David Lofgren
Harry Howard
Cindy Ricard
Kathleen Walker

Capital Campaign Results

The 2002 Capital Campaign has raised \$4370 to date. We would like to thank and show our appreciation to the following area businesses for their support in helping us preserve our special piece of New England History.

Alliance Realty, Inc.
Morse Lumber Co., Inc.
Arnies Auto Body, Inc.
BT Copy & Printing Center
Charlton Food Mart
Charter Communications
Culliton & Fanning, LLC
Curtis K Abbott Co Inc.
Fiske Woodworking
G&G Colonial Homes
Hyde Manufacturing
Jeff Helgerson Excavating, Inc.
Morse Lumber Co., Inc.
New Image
R.E.R. Machine Co
Savers Bank
Shipman Dental Lab
Storage Space
T.P. Morin & Son
Ted's Package & Variety Store
Towne & Country Enterprises
Underwood Excavating Co.
Webster First Credit Union

If you would like more information on how you could help please contact us by mail at Charlton Historical Society, P.O. Box 252, Charlton, MA 01507 or phone Glenn at 508 248-7913.

Charlton Historical Society
P.O.Box 252
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