

tree marked at the SE corner of Jonathan Fuller's land..." or the "...end of the dwelling house of Abner Wheelock 2nd..." make determining the exact location nearly impossible.

One of the first changes after the 1820 report was the dividing of District #1 on May 1, 1820. A detailed description explains that there were 160 scholars in the school, "...a number much too large to be accommodated in one school house, or taught by any one instructor..." and the students would make greater progress in a smaller class. They also were concerned they would first be asked to pay for a new schoolhouse to accommodate so many children, and then pay for one again after the inevitable break into a smaller district later. Petitioners requested that the South part of the District be separated from the North part, and that it be called "No. 1, South School District." This separation resulted in fifteen districts, the highest amount recorded. As the population of districts changed, consolidations, reconfigurations, and renaming took place over the course of many years, until the last district school closed after the winter vacation 1949.

Gardening Committee Report

By Ruth Schwendeman

This year's generous rain was both a blessing and a curse—bringing us both abundant flowers and a vigorous crop of weeds! The gardening committee tried to keep one step ahead of the growth, while embarking on a few new plans and projects.

We completed the first half of our two-year plan to re-paint the picturesque picket fence in front of the Widow's Third flower garden. In addition, some new "old-fashioned" blooms --namely four o'clocks and bee balm—were included in the plantings.

At the base of the Tavern's beautiful new sign, we installed a small, brick-outlined garden plot, and planted it with hardy oregano. This low maintenance heat and drought-tolerant herb is filling in nicely, and will complement the rustic finish of the sign supports.

Soon we will begin fall cleanup of both the gardens in the front of the Tavern, as well as those around the perimeter of the rest of the building. Anyone interested in helping with this project should call Ruth at 508-885-6255.

Property Committee Report

By Don Weinhardt, Chairman and Archivist
This is a summary of just some of the artifact and archival items donated to the Charlton Historical Society since our last newsletter in the Spring.

Aimee Newell, Southbridge-Books, "Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings" by Thomas Durant Visser, 1997 and "To Comfort the Heart-Women in Seventeenth Century America" by Paula A. Treckel, 1996; **Carol and Donald Weinhardt**, Charlton-Plate, white ceramic, blue transfer, the subject is "The Surrender of Col. William Ledyard" or "The Massacre of Fort Griswold Groton Conn. Sept. 6, 1781." The plate was made in Staffordshire, England and was issued by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1908.

Armand Richards, Charlton-Map of Charlton, 16" x 20", Framed with a Victorian frame. The freehand map design was by Alberta Putnam 1959; **Lisa Westwell**, Charlton-Photos, 24 color, 4" x 6", taken by Lisa, the subject was activities on Charlton History Day, Oct. 16, 2005. The photos were taken by Lisa, in and around Rider Tavern, the Militia Lot and the No. 2 Schoolhouse.

Brandon Avery, North Brookfield-Surveys, 5, all relevant to Charlton, plan of standing wood owned by Daniel H. Tucker, 1901, map of Wm. D. Warren Home Farm dated 1896, Plan of the Farm owned by Eliza A. Merriam, done by George A. Craig, Civil Engineer, dated 1880, Woodlots owned by Tucker and Aldrich, 1916, and the Plan of Turnpike at Charlton City, as relocated by County Commissioners, July 1904 (Stafford Street, east and west of Brookfield Road); **Joyce A. Stewart**, Charlton-Photos, 48, color, 4" x 6", the subject was Charlton History Day, Oct. 16, 2005 and the activities at Rider Tavern, the Militia Lot, and the No. 2 Schoolhouse. The photos were taken by Donna Kaplan, a friend of Joyce.

Thank you for helping to preserve Charlton's past.

Also note, that the archive and library re-organization is moving forward, and very good progress is being made. If you have, or know someone who has any locally significant material, and is looking for a good permanent home for it, please contact me (Don Weinhardt) at 248-1632.

Decorating Committee Report

By Ruth Schwendeman

At the Society's Annual Meeting, we were happy to celebrate the installation of the new tavern sign. Designed, constructed and painted by local artist Heidi Howard with a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the colorful horse and rider image sits high atop specially designed gallow's-style posts, attached with custom-made wrought iron hardware. Thanks to board member Joyce Stewart for coordinating this long-term project to it's successful completion.

Never one to sit idle, the decorating committee is again taking on new projects. The barroom is receiving a significant makeover, after months of research and discussion. The wallpaper's removal will make way for a new color scheme, one that includes extensive replication of original grain painting dating back to the construction of the building. Investigation of the wainscoting boards indicates that they were originally finished with layers and colors of paint made to simulate the grain of cedar wood. Some of this work still survives, but much of it has been lost under subsequent layers of paint applied over time. Board members have received training at a recent Historical Society grainpainting workshop, and will undertake to replicate the technique on all the wainscoting in the room. Fresh ceiling, trim, wall and floor paint will add to the new look, as will the in-progress reconstruction of the hearth and fireplace mantel. Come and visit us on History Day to view this exciting and on-going project!

Calendar of Events

Charlton History Day Sun. September 24 noon to 4 p.m., Rider Tavern, Militia Lot. **Free.**

Costumed volunteers and informative displays will provide a glimpse into Charlton's past. Look for the changes in the tavern since last year, like the reproduction fireplace with room restoration in the taproom, and the garden makeover. Watch demonstrations of spinning and rug hooking. Check out the special exhibitions while the Heritage String Band provides a background of period songs. Then meander among the flowers in front of the widow's third, followed by viewing the military encampment stationed on the Militia Lot across the street. Amid all the activity, take time to

relax in the ballroom. For a \$5 donation, costumed volunteers will serve you the Tavern's own blend of herbal tea, and freshly baked gingerbread with old-fashioned whipped cream.

Yard Sale Sat. Oct. 14, 8:30 to 2:00, Rider Tavern. Explore the fresh selection of goods for just the tools, bottles, jewelry, collectibles, vintage decorations, household goods, books, and furniture you have been looking to find. This is the perfect opportunity to get unique treasures as you prepare for holiday events and family gatherings. Rain or shine. Your purchase will help raise funds for programs such as the historic barns presentation and for on-going maintenance of the Rider Tavern. For more information, or to make a donation, call Cindy Cooper at 508-248-7840.

Charlton Barns Presentation by Don Weinhardt, Mon. Oct. 23, 7:00 p.m., Rider Tavern. **Free.** A survey of Charlton barns in 1976 showed that many of the large early barns had already disappeared from our landscape. Since then, all of the town's remaining dairy farms have ceased operations. This slide presentation provides a photographic documentary of Charlton barns.

Thank You

Local businesses have generously donated to help support the work of the historical society. Their support was used for maintenance of the Rider Tavern. Please join us in thanking them:

Hyde/Dexter Russell Charitable Foundation
Southbridge Savings Bank
Sturbridge WalMart

Curtis K. Abbott Company, Inc.
Country Bank for Savings

Karl Storz Endovision

Webster Five Cents Savings Bank

Cronin Cabinets

Big Bunny Market

We are grateful to the following for contributing specific items requested. Their donations helped reduce expenses for programs and activities:

Charlton Sewing Center, Charlton-sewing supplies
Francesco's, Charlton-pastry

Dollar Stop, Auburn-gift certificates

Big Bunny, Southbridge-food

Paoletti's, Sturbridge-fruit

Shaws, Sturbridge-food

Sherwin Williams, Sturbridge-paint

WalMart, Sturbridge-file folders

Charlton Historical Society
P. O. Box 252
Charlton, MA 01507

Fall 2006

Charlton Historical Society
P. O. Box 252
Charlton, MA 01507

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Type of Membership:

_____ **Individual \$5.00** _____ **Family \$10.00**

_____ **Life \$50.00**

_____ **Renewal** _____ **New Member**

I would like to volunteer at an event or be a member
of the board of directors. Phone _____

_____ **Enclosed is a donation of \$** _____

Comments:

www.CharltonHistoricalSociety.org
508-248-3202

Board of Directors

President: Cindy Cooper

Vice President: William Hultgren

Treasurer: Joyce Stewart

Clerk: Ruth Schwendeman

Corresponding Sec.: Harry Howard

Archivist: Donald Weinhardt

Curtis Abbott

Vanessa Brown

Cindy Cheever

Barbara Dean

Glenn Ellis

Claudia Lacerte

**Coming Events at Rider Tavern,
255 Stafford St. Charlton:**

History Day, Sun, Sept. 24 noon to 4

Yard Sale, Sat. Oct 14 from 8:30 to 2

Barns Presentation, Mon. Oct 23 at 7