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## IMAGES

(Left) Detail, Addison LeBoutillier landscape

(Above) Annie Gilbert and Susan Ekman at Andover Historical's 2014 Spring For History Breakfast

# LEBOUTILLIER'S INDELIBLE MARK

by Tom Adams, Editor

**L**egacy, the indelible footprint of a life left behind. Generations have felt the impact of Addison Brayton LeBoutillier's life here in Andover and throughout the world. A noted architect designing homes, public buildings, and churches, LeBoutillier was also a gifted, versatile artist creating images that remain highly valued among collectors today. His works are included in such major public collections as the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Born in Utica, N.Y. in 1872, LeBoutillier demonstrated a natural talent for drawing. His keen interest in architecture awakened during a visit to an architect's office where he observed the design of a local mission chapel. His talent and his thirst to learn lit an artistic flame that burned throughout his life. Largely self-taught, he apprenticed with an architectural firm in Rochester later moving on to Chicago seeking greater opportunities. His work on the Pullman train car for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition so impressed his superiors at S.S. Beman that he was chosen to draw the design presentation for an addition to the industrialist Pullman's Chicago mansion.

Following the Chicago Fair, LeBoutillier traveled throughout Europe absorbing its architecture and sketching his favorite monuments. Returning stateside, he settled in Boston, then considered the mecca for young, up-and-coming draftsmen. This move proved pivotal in LeBoutillier's career. Hired as a designer by the prestigious jeweler, Bigelow, Kennard, & Co, in 1901, he was appointed chief designer by Grueby Pottery. Grueby pottery and tile were highly popular in home decoration during the Arts & Crafts movement in the early 1900s. Outside clients sought him

*Continued on page 7*

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER SPRING 2015



Many thanks are in order for board members Doug Mitchell and Ellen Marcus who revived the Society's Annual Past Presidents' Reception tradition by organizing an enjoyable event held here at the Blanchard House on February 8. For many years it was our custom to hold a tea on the occasion of George Washington's birthday to allow current members to salute and honor those who had preceded them. For the past thirty years, however, the event has been held only sporadically.

It was a great pleasure for me to talk with so many friends and to tell them about the new and exciting activities underway in 2015. One highlight of the

afternoon was the recreation of another tradition from years past, a group photograph taken in front of the clock in the Best Parlor.

I also learned a lot about the Society's own history. We have had thirty-three presidents in our 104-year history, with the wrinkle that Norma Gammon (our Grover Cleveland) served twice. The first president was Dr. Charles A. Abbott who served from 1911 to 1926. The first woman to hold the office was Dorothy "Dot" Hill in 1974.

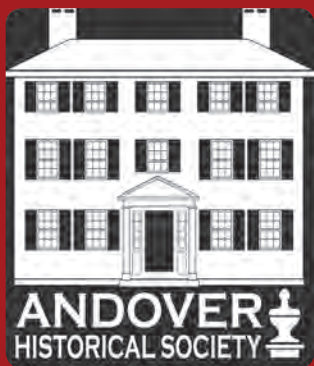
Events like this one remind me of the value of being a member of the Andover Historical Society and not merely a casual visitor. My participation and yes, my financial support, helps to keep alive the legacy of some of the town's most interesting and generous residents. The Society has changed in many ways over the years – most noticeably in the sheer volume and diversity of the people who are impacted by our programs and activities. Yet our underlying mission remains the same. We preserve and tell Andover's stories so that people of all ages feel an enhanced connection to the town and to each other.

*Jane Dietzel Cairns*

Jane Cairns  
President, Andover Historical Society



*Jane Cairns with Cliff Markell, Don Robb, Don Hayes, Doug Mitchell, Diane Hender, Helen Sellers, Ellen Marcus, and Karen Herman.*



## COME VISIT!

## Making Time to Play

Our newest exhibit reminds us to take time to slow down, to find our inner child, to play, and to create. What will you create this spring? A garden? A quilt? A picnic table? We're hosting a variety of fun and creative programs at the Historical Society this spring. You can come in and make something here. Or, you can make something at home and share it with us on Facebook! You can post photos and information about your creation and be a part of the Andover Historical community. We'll be watching for you!



# RUFUS PORTER –THE GENIUS YOU NEVER HEARD OF!

by Katharine Barr

**C**obbler, fiddler, painter, schoolmaster, inventor, artist, writer, editor, and religious zealot. Rufus Porter packed all of this, and more, into his long and eventful life.

Born in West Boxford in 1792 to a prominent farming family, his formal education ended when he was 12, after just six months at the Fryeburg (Maine) Academy. Shortly afterward, he took himself off to Portland, supporting himself for a time as a cobbler. He learned to play the fiddle, fife and drum and made extra money playing for dances and military drills. While in Portland he married Eunice Twombly. Together they had 10 children. Ever the wanderer, marriage and fatherhood didn't settle Porter down.

Porter moved to Denmark, Maine in 1813. He painted sleighs, learned to play the drums and taught that skill for a time. Yet after a few months, his wanderings began again. He taught school in Baldwin and Waterford, ME. He painted in Boston, New York, Baltimore, and Alexandria, VA. Porter was an idea man. He developed a concept for a steam carriage. His plan for a revolving rifle was sold to Samuel Colt for the paltry sum of \$100. In 1834, he published his first plans for an "aerial carriage," decades before Count Zepplin and the Wright brothers were even born!

The wall murals he painted, however, remain his best known legacy. From approximately 1824 to 1840, Porter wandered from town-to-town throughout Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont creating uniquely New England murals on the walls of inns, public buildings and private homes. Over the years most of these have been painted over, papered over, or otherwise destroyed. A small treasure trove remain, murals cherished by the owners of the buildings in which they can be found.

## RUFUS PORTER IN ANDOVER

At the corner of Philips and Central Streets a handsome Colonial home stands proudly displaying three Rufus Porter murals. It was built in 1763 and named "Elm Knoll" by Daniel Poor, then Deacon at South Church. It is rumored to have been Old Poor Tavern during the Revolutionary War. Sometime in the 1830s, Rufus



*An example of Rufus Porter's style. The Andover house is privately owned and Andover Historical Society does not have a photograph of the murals suitable for reprinting.*

Porter was commissioned to paint three murals in the home — two downstairs and one in an upstairs bedroom. Over the years, they disappeared under layers of wallpaper until 1916, when H. Winthrop Pierce, an Andover artist, painstakingly restored them. In 1855, the property was purchased by Capt. Oliver Hazard Perry, son and namesake of the American navel hero Commodore Perry. He and his family occupied the

house until his death in 1878. Hence the name it carries today, the "Poor-Perry House."

There are many examples of Porter's work throughout New England. In neighboring North Reading, the 1812 Damon Tavern served as a coach stop on the Salem-Lowell and Boston-Haverhill runs. As was typical of inns at that time, there is a ballroom on the second floor. All four walls feature murals by Porter. Over time, the murals were papered over several times. In the 1960s, they were meticulously uncovered and restored. After being off-limits to the public for many years, they are now available for viewing by appointment.

Examples of Porter's work live on in private homes in West Boxford, West Newbury, Georgetown, Groveland, and Pepperell, Massachusetts. In Hancock, New Hampshire, you can actually stay in a Porter-decorated room at the historic Hancock Inn.

By 1845, Porter's interest in mural painting waned and he embarked on a new career as a journalist. That same year he became owner of the *New York Mechanic*, a magazine of science. Shortly thereafter, he founded his own paper, the much-celebrated *Scientific American*. In 1849, he published his famous treatise "*Aerial Navigation*," with a lengthy subtitle - "*The practicability of traveling pleasantly and safely from New York to California in three days.*" This incredible scheme coincided with the Gold Rush. But alas, its potential was never realized.

Rufus Porter died in Connecticut at the age of 93, leaving behind a towering legacy of art and invention that is mostly, and sadly, unrecognized and unheralded. The *Scientific American* noted in his obituary that "*Rufus Porter will live (on) as one of the best and brightest examples of the versatility of American invention.*"

# M A R C H



A month of reading, writing, and women's history  
at the Andover Historical Society  
97 Main Street in downtown Andover, MA

## HISTORY KIDS JOURNAL

Thurs., March 5  
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what goes into creating a hand-made journal from paper? Students (grades 3-6) are invited to join us for an afternoon of journal creating and writing. Andover teacher Maureen Witbold will lead the program. Participants will see an 1860's journal up close and have the opportunity to create one to take home. \$5 per member child, \$7 per non-member.

## AUTHORS GAME NIGHT

Tues., March 10  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of fun and games while exploring the Society's latest exhibit, *Making Time to Play*. Vintage and modern games will be available for playing and friendly rounds of the game *Authors* will take place throughout the program. Admission is \$7 per member, \$10 per non-member and includes light refreshments along with a deck of commemorative Andover Authors cards to play the game at home.

## MEET THE AUTHORS!

Sat., March 21  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Authors Harriet Beecher Stowe, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Bessie Goldsmith, Anne Bradstreet, and teenage diary writer Abby Locke will return to town for one afternoon of living history presentations. Visit the Blanchard House for a 30 minute guided tour and have the opportunity to 'speak' to these illustrious writers from the past. \$5 per member, \$7 per non-member, children under 12 admitted free.

## AUTHORS' LIVE PANEL

Thurs., March 26  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Andover authors will take the floor for this special panel discussion as we explore the art and craft of writing in the 21st century. A local moderator will lead the event and explore questions relating to styles of writing, sources of inspiration, and many other audience generated queries. Visit the Society's website for the complete list of attending authors. \$5 per member, \$7 per non-member, students are admitted free of charge.

## DISCUSSION & DESSERT

Tues., March 31  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Explore the past through *Nothing Daunted*, the captivating true story of two restless society girls who left their affluent lives in 1916 to "rough it" as teachers in the wilds of Colorado. Penned by Dorothy Wickenden, editor of *The New Yorker*, all are invited to read the book and join in a guided discussion of the story to conclude the series of events. Open to the public at no charge, reservations requested.

## MARCH WRITE IN! CELEBRATING ANDOVER'S FEMALE AUTHORS

The Andover Historical Society invites you to our reading and writing events in March with a special focus on female authors in honor of Women's History Month. The program series highlights local writers from both Andover's history and the broader contemporary society. Events will appeal to a range of ages and participation levels. Call 978.475.2236 or [andoverhistorical.org/marchwritein](http://andoverhistorical.org/marchwritein) to sign up!

**ANDOVER**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# 2015

## SPRING PROGRAMS

AT THE  
ANDOVER HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



### St. Patrick's Day Bingo & Games | Tuesday, March 17

When's the last time you yelled "BINGO?" Spend an afternoon (2–3:30pm) playing games and exploring the Society's newest exhibit. Price is \$5 per guest and includes light refreshments and a game to take home. Call 978.475.2236 to sign up.

### Easter Egg Roll | Saturday, April 4

Join us for seasonal fun and games (10am–12pm) at the Blanchard House as we enjoy an old-fashioned Easter egg roll in our backyard. Eggs-citing crafts, refreshments, games, and photos with the Easter Bunny will be part of this entertaining program. Price is \$10 per child and includes prizes to take home. Call 978.475.2236 to sign up.

### Knitting & Stitching Club | Tuesdays

Do you enjoy knitting and other types of needlework? Come join fellow crafters weekly on Tuesday afternoons for a few hours (12–2pm) of stitching time. Open and free to all levels of ability and interest. Bring your own project and supplies and get to know other local stitchers. No instruction provided but helpful attendees are sure to offer assistance.

### Stick Horse Workshop | Saturday, May 2

All ages are invited to drop in to the Historical Society for an afternoon (1–3pm) of Kentucky Derby excitement. Stuff and decorate your own pre-made stick horse. A fee of \$10 covers all supplies. After your horse is finished, you're invited to head to Ironstone Farm's Kentucky Derby Day at LeLacheur Park in Lowell for old fashioned stick-horse races!



97 Main Street, Andover, MA 01810

[andoverhistorical.org](http://andoverhistorical.org)

978.475.2236



# THE “MAKERS’ MOVEMENT” — ARE YOU A PART OF IT?

by Katharine Barr

**A**re you a tinkerer? A putterer? A DYIer? Do you get a sense of pride and accomplishment from making something yourself, instead of grabbing it ready-made off a store shelf? Then congratulations — you’re part of a new trend known as the Makers’ Movement.

Well, actually it’s really not so new after all. For generations, there have been those who love to grow flowers and vegetables from seed...carve a duck decoy from a block of wood... stitch a family heirloom quilt from scraps of fabric...restore a 1947 Indian motorcycle. There’s nothing quite so exciting and satisfying as creating something with your own hands.

Contemporary “makers” have gone high-tech and now include young people creating working robots for a variety of 21st century applications. Classes in robotics

throughout the years. The oldest items are handmade and include a collection of carved wooden toys (which are popular again today), board games, puzzles, and a doll house with handmade furniture. The exhibit also includes paper dolls cut from the pages of vintage fashion magazines, handmade stuffed animals, and a “toy theater” with miniature characters and hand-colored scenery cut from cardboard. Rounding out the exhibit is a doll, complete with an ensemble of dresses and a toy sewing machine that really works!

During this past January and February, children visited Blanchard House and made their own “Velveteen Rabbit” from the beloved children’s book and crafted ribbon and doily valentines reminiscent of a bygone era.

But it’s not just the kids having fun. An adult knitting group has been formed. You can bring in your project, work on it, get advice from other knitters, and produce something of beauty that you’ll be proud to use, to wear, or give as a gift!

A stroll through the Historical Society’s “Making Time to Play” exhibit is definitely a stroll down Memory Lane. You will recognize things that you, your parents, or your children played with in years past. Today it is tablets, Smart phones, play stations, video games, and other electronic diversions that rule the day. That’s all well-and-good, but they’re seldom as satisfying as helping Dad construct a tree house in the backyard, then watching your



*Punchard High wood shop class, circa 1910. Charles H. Newman Collection (#1987.598.388)*

are springing up in high schools and colleges across the country. Competitions among ‘makers’ are fiercely contested.

Urban gardening is enjoying enormous popularity, as is the “farm-to-table” phenomenon. Who hasn’t spent a crisp fall afternoon at a “pick-your-own” orchard, when it’s much easier to grab a bag of apples at your local supermarket? Recently, a highly successful athlete walked away from his promising career to become...a farmer! And craft fairs are springing up all over the place — year ‘round — with some pretty high-end, handmade items like jewelry, pottery, glass and metal items.

So the “Maker’s Movement” appears to be in high gear, encouraging men, women and children to be actively involved in something they find personally satisfying.

The Andover Historical Society’s newest exhibit “Making Time to Play” focuses on toys and games

kids and their friends move in! Or seeing your little ballerina giving her own recital at school, in front of you and the proud grandparents, or savoring that Blue Ribbon for your 1st Place apple pie — on your first attempt!

But being a “Maker” isn’t just personally satisfying - it’s also lot of fun. Your mother can teach your daughter how to knit an awesome scarf or hat her friends will envy. And just imagine the look on your son’s face, when he presents Dad with his first catch, after learning to fly-fish! A whole lot more exciting than picking up some fish from the local supermarket.

I think you get the idea. Make a fun, family project out of creating something you’ll all get enjoy. If you need more inspiration, stop by the “Making Time to Play” exhibit at the Andover Historical Society. You’ll get lots of good ideas!

# LeBOUTILLIER'S INDELIBLE MARK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out for his exquisite lettering, book decoration, and graphics. He gained further notoriety entering, and occasionally winning, architectural design contests.

As his reputation grew, so too did LeBoutillier's fascination with architecture. Partnering with Hubert G. Ripley, he worked designing churches, public buildings including Punchard High School (now Town Offices) and Shawsheen School, and private homes. Many of these private homes still stand today in New York, in Milton and Rockport, MA., and here in Andover on Orchard and Central streets.

An innovator, LeBoutillier was among the first architects to incorporate scale model renderings for clients to consider prior to construction - can you imagine a builder doing that today? His model building became a life-long passion creating detailed models of his favorite buildings including the Tintern Abbey in Wales. Following his retirement, he toiled seven years modeling St. Sigebert, an imaginary medieval village he wrote about in a

fairy tale. The model village is now in the Andover Historical Society collection.

Beyond his impact as an artist/designer, LeBoutillier left his imprint on the local theater community where he and his wife were quite active during their years in Andover. The Jan. 15, 1926 Andover Townsman noted their lead roles in "The Florist Shop," a play performed at Old Town Hall by The Barnstormers, an Andover-based theatre company founded in 1911. The article further cites LeBoutillier's talent as the company's set designer.

One of the 20th century's great artisans, whose contributions continue to grace our community a half century after his life, Addison Brayton LeBoutillier was truly a man for all seasons.

For those interested in learning more about Addison LeBoutillier, consider reading Clark Pearce's catalog, Addison B. LeBoutillier, Andover Artist and Craftsman, which is available through Memorial Hall Library and the Andover Historical Society.

## DO **YOU** LIKE TO PLAY WITH HISTORY?

**Step into 19th century Andover  
and teach local students about:**

Forming Fire Bucket Brigades

Performing Household Chores

Setting Type on a Printing Press

Gathering Eggs in the Barn

Bartering at the General Store & More!

**Become an  
ANDOVER AT WORK  
Volunteer!**

Volunteers needed for Spring 2015, full training provided.

### Help bring students closer to Andover. Become a Volunteer!

Andover at Work in the 1820s is a 33-year old school program hosted by the Andover Historical Society.

During this two hour visit, local elementary school students are led on an engaging hands-on tour by our trained volunteers.

*Join us on a tour for YOU.*

*Learn about the program and how to participate.*

#### 2015 Intro Tour, Training & Lunch

April 29, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In addition to the training session, we encourage all volunteers to shadow mentors as they become familiar with the Andover at Work tour. Printed reference materials are always available. Educational opportunities, field trips, and workshops are offered throughout the spring to enrich the knowledge of Andover at Work guides.

Contact Programs & PR Manager Carrie Midura at 978.475.2236 or [cmidura@andoverhistorical.org](mailto:cmidura@andoverhistorical.org) to learn about volunteering today!

spring for History  
May 13, 2015

7:30 a.m. at Andover Country Club



A free one-hour fund-raising event  
to support the mission of the Andover Historical Society





Essex County  
Community Foundation



massculturalcouncil.org



*Watercolor on Paper Landscape by Addison LeBoutillier,  
circa 1930. Gift of Winiferd Tyer (#1987.605.3.11)*

**ANDOVER**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***

***Tuesday through Saturday : 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.***

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