



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



SECOND CENTURY – NEW BEGINNINGS

Your Andover Historical Society has successfully completed its first century of service meeting the needs of our many constituencies. This past year marked the culmination of our Centennial celebration. We hosted a vibrant reunion gathering over eighty past and present Society dignitaries at the Lanam Club in April to coincide with our annual meeting. It was a joy beyond description to have people, who spanned fifty years of service to our effort of gathering and exchanging memories.

This year also featured the blossoming of the effort we have come to call our *Andover Neighborhood* programs. Under the able leadership of Membership Chair Jim Sellers, the programs attracted so many more participants than anticipated that we had to run second sessions. This effort to reach out to our community is bearing fruit in many important ways. We have experienced an increase in memberships but have also had recent residents seeking additional information about their neighborhood and looking forward to programs covering other areas in our town.

2012 will also mark an important milestone for the Society and its caring for the Taft Family gifts of two buildings. While we fulfilled our custodial duties of caretaking the disassembled buildings for over a decade, this year, under Lolli Sumberg's leadership, the Society and involved Taft family members entered into discussions on the proper course of action for these structures. In June, it was agreed by all parties that the buildings would be returned to the Taft family for their reconstruction on the family property on Salem Street.

All persons involved were delighted to have a successful resolution of this long-standing matter.

We now look forward to the challenges of our second century. After thoughtful deliberation, the Society embarked on a new drive to educate, engage, and inspire our community on the wide-ranging efforts of the Society. The program called *Speak Easy Andover* is one hour devoted to illuminating the many ways we have impacted the lives of the people of Andover. It is focused exclusively on educating and informing in the expectation that participants will become more engaged and inspired to become involved in furthering our efforts. We offer this *Speak Easy Andover* two times a month in an effort to connect to new people. I hope you will join us for one these sessions as we start our second century.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Mitchell".

Doug Mitchell
President

OUR MISSION

The Andover Historical Society tells the unique stories of Andover to foster a strong community that knows its history, values what it inherits, and takes pride in what it passes on to future generations.

That's an audacious mission for a small local historical society. It is, as *Good to Great* author Jim Collins would say, our BHAG.....our Big Hairy Audacious Goal....a goal that inspires us every day to do the work we do. To meet our audacious goal, every activity and program we undertake meets one of our three mission areas: preserving the past, educating for the future, and connecting to our community. Read on to learn more.

PRESERVING THE PAST

The Historical Society stewards a collection of over 50,000 artifacts, documents, photographs, and other historical resources, and we use those resources every day to tell Andover's stories. Every object in the collection has a story to tell. It could be the story of how or where the object was made. It could be the story of the person, family, or business that made or used the object, took the photograph, created the document, or saved it for generations. Objects can also inspire new stories. For example, one Historical Society volunteer chose a milk can as her favorite object to be included in the Andover Top 40 exhibit that opened in spring 2012. The milk can was from a dairy in New Hampshire, but for this volunteer, the can brought back memories of her family's dairy farm on Chandler Road in Andover. She later shared those memories about her family's farm at a West Andover Neighborhood program earlier that year, creating new connections and stories.



Giles Dairy Milk Can
Object #2007.064.2

Photograph by James Imrie

EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE



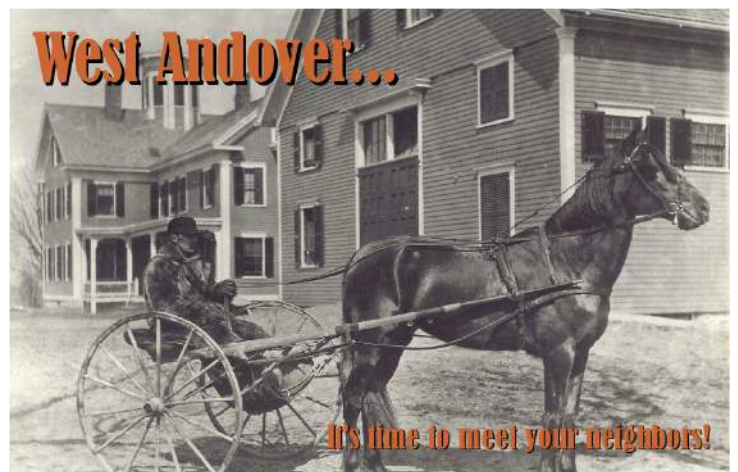
Students learn about 1820's food preservation from an Andover at Work volunteer, Photograph by Cristen Farrell

Perhaps the Historical Society's best known education program is Andover at Work in the 1820s, a hands-on program in which students role play as people who lived and worked in their town nearly 200 years ago. Since 1982, over 15,000 elementary school students have participated in the program. But the Historical Society's educational mission and programming extends far beyond that, reaching out to families, children of all ages, adults, seniors, Andover's neighborhoods, and our community partners. One example of this is the Historical Society's column in the *Andover Townsman* newspaper that ran weekly from April 2010 to April 2012 (and continues twice a month to this day!). Over thirty-five volunteers gave their time and talent to research and write Andover Stories that were read and shared by readers throughout the town and the country. The first fifty-two of those stories have since been published as a book, so those stories will continue to be shared for years to come.

CONNECTING TO OUR COMMUNITY

Connecting to our community is the big "why" of the Society's mission, as in "why does the Historical Society collect and share Andover's history and stories?" We use the stories held in the objects, photographs, and documents to bring people together, to build a deeper sense of engagement in this community. Imagine neighbors meeting each other for the first time at an Andover Neighborhood program. Or a high school student transcribing an oral history of an older resident, hearing the voice of the story teller, and connecting to part of her town's history. Each encounter connects people to each other and to Andover's past...and future.

These are just a few of the many ways the Andover Historical Society strives to meet our audacious mission. We thank you, our members, donors, and volunteers – the Andover Historical Society community – for all you do to make this possible.



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* Includes all category levels.

Some memberships include multiple individuals.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Farmers' Market: In its sixth year, the Andover Farmers' Market continued to draw visitors and new vendors in greater numbers. With local farmers' returning to participate, the market hosted on the grounds of the Andover Historical Society has become an important community resource that supports local farms, businesses, and community spirit.



Author Kathleen Kent with staff members
Carrie Midura and Debbie DeSmet

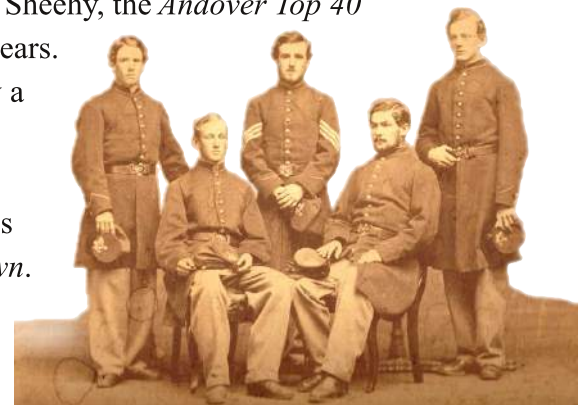
Bewitched in Andover: In 2011, the Society kicked off its first *Bewitched in Andover* series of eerie events to both commemorate Andover's involvement in the Salem Witch Trials and entertain the halloween spirit. Well known author of *The Heretics Daughter*, Kathleen Kent came for a book signing and lecture, and historian Jim Batchelder hosted Cocktails from the Crypt, a special evening of drinks and a presentation on the history of West Parish Garden Cemetery.

History Kids Vacation: Students' programs have continued with success including a three day February vacation program for elementary students who participated in programs such as *Little House on the Prairie in Andover*, *A Walk in Hellen Keller's Shoes*, and *School Girl Sampler*. Along with many other youth programs, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts visit the Society throughout the year.

Andover Top 40: Created by ADEPT staff member and exhibit intern, Erin Sheehy, the *Andover Top 40* exhibit has been one of the most successful exhibits at the Society in recent years.

This exhibit included artifacts chosen by forty staff and volunteers to display a wide variety of the items stewarded by the Society.

Spirit and Sacrifice: In honor of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Historical Society hosted a series of themed events inspired by Joan Patrakis's book: *Andover in the Civil War: The Spirit & Sacrifice of a New England Town*. The events included a one-day exhibition of Civil War artifacts, a lecture by Michael Morris Jr. and a Civil War reenactment by James Bedford.



Civil War Union Army Soldiers from Andover
#1989.942.1

LIFE LONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

The charge of the Life Long Learning Committee is to develop a wide range of programs and services for individuals and groups that increase understanding of local history and historic preservation and disseminate Society research through educational material and publications.

Our signature program for the past thirty years is *Andover at Work in the 1820s*, which annually hosts every third grade class in the Andover Public Schools as well as the two fifth grade classes at St. Augustine School and provides a view into life in Andover in the 1820s. This year we saw twenty-five classes.

The focus of the committee for FY12 has been growth and enhancement of that program through updating the scripts and materials used in the interpretation. It was necessary to increase our volunteer base, and to that end, we undertook a number of strategies. We produced a recruiting video that was available on YouTube and published postcards that were made available throughout the community inviting interested citizens to join us as guides. We also made visits to several PTOs asking for their help. We were quite successful in welcoming several new guides.

Improvements to the program were also made. The scripts were thoroughly edited, Andover citizen biographies were revised, new interpretive panels were designed and installed in the program's stations, displays along the route were made more informative, and three new period dresses were sewn by Angela McBrien for volunteers to wear.

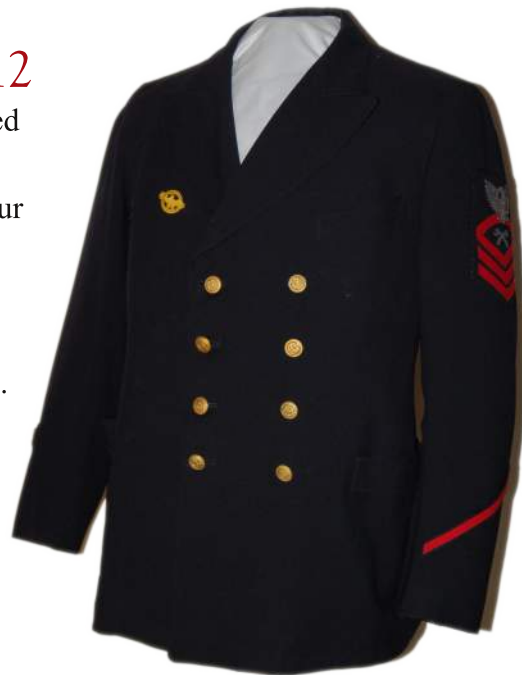
The centerpiece for the year was an exhibit in the Family Parlor designed by intern Stephanie Opoloski to celebrate thirty years of *Andover at Work in the 1820s* while providing an interactive activity for visitors.

COLLECTIONS SUMMARY, JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

The past fiscal year's donations were both typical and unusual. We received fifty-five separate donations, many consisting of several individual items. Photographs, family memorabilia, and Andover ephemera continue to be our most frequent gifts.

This year, however, two donations stand out as atypical. We received an archive of letters written by an Andover school teacher to her out of state friend filled with news of Andover and its happenings dated from 1846-1864. Additionally, we were able to add to our 20th century collection thanks to the generosity of one of our members. Along with the donation of over thirty-five items including World War II uniforms came stories illustrating each item's connection to the Andover community.

We thank all our generous donors who keep adding to our collection of Andover memorabilia and enhancing those stories we avidly seek.



U. S. Coast Guard Chief Carpenter's Mate
Dress Jacket, 1941-1944. Belonged to
Sidney Abbott Batchelder.
Object #2011.032.2

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ADEPT

The Society's ADEPT (Andover Data Entry Project) closed out its three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in July 2012. Project Managers Mark Turdo and Marilyn Helmers did an extraordinary job developing systems and standards and managing the project. The scope of ADEPT was to enter object records for the years 1999 back to 1960. The reason for moving backward through the decades was to take advantage of clearer, more complete recent records and use the accumulated knowledge about the collection as we moved back through the early years of Society's records. The ADEPT team went well past 1960, exceeding that goal by 30%, by entering data through 1935 and updating over 12,500 records.

On July 31, 2012, volunteers, board members, and staff gathered to celebrate the ADEPT project and its amazing corps of staff and volunteers. Together, ADEPT's thirty-plus volunteers dedicated 10,965 hours to the project – equal to 5.5 full-time staff working eight hour days. Our goal is to continue the work of the ADEPT team with volunteers, and we plan to apply for future funding to continue the same rigorous standards of data entry to the Society's special collections and archives.

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Front Cover Image: Edward Taylor Fire Bucket, c.1829 #1979.084.2 *Photograph by James Imrie.*

Back Cover Images: Centennial Walkway, Tree Time at the Society (*by James Imrie*), Alpaca from Big Red Acres visiting the Andover Farmers' Market