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IMAGES

(Above) Participants gather for AVIS event

(Left) Detail of Fire Chief badge

AFRICAN-AMERICANS FOUGHT FOR ANDOVER'S INDEPENDENCE

by Joan Patrakis

In the War of Independence, thirty African-American “servants” and “free men” fought for the town of Andover. Joining other Andover “rebels and traitors” – as the British described them – they answered the Lexington Alarm, built fortifications and confronted the British at Bunker Hill. In the encounter, a former slave was commended for bravery. Another was killed on the battlefield. At Valley Forge, all but one of the men endured the hardships of that terrible winter.

In 18th Century New England the term “servant” was a polite word for “slave.” Slaves were property according to law. They were bought at slave markets in the coastal cities of Boston and Salem. Owners sold them to other households or deeded them to family members. Servants took their owner's surname. The practice continued in Massachusetts until 1780 when the Commonwealth abolished slavery.

Many Andover servants had been granted their freedom long before that time. Men and women, who could afford it, were able to purchase their independence. Enlistees in the Revolution were promised liberty as a reward for serving. A free man was among the first Andover troops to respond to the Lexington attack.

On the morning of April 19, 1775 two companies of Minutemen marched from Andover to Lexington along roads crowded with troops. Four companies of foot soldiers followed. Pomp Lovejoy was a private in Captain Henry Abbot's company of foot soldiers. The 52-year old was the only African-American to march from Andover that day. State records credit him with 1-1/2 days of service.

Pomp had been freed in 1762 by his benevolent owner, William Lovejoy, whose will stated he was to have “freedom from all slavery and servitude.” He was well-known within the community for his “‘lection’ day cake and beer” which he traditionally passed around on town meeting day. Residents called the pond behind his cabin “Pomp's Pond,” a name that survives to this day.

Continued on page 5

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

SPRING 2016



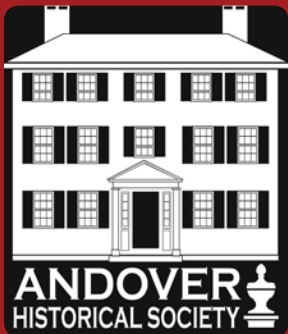
Heroes. Heroes are everywhere and this spring a carefully curated George Washington exhibit – to mark our nation’s longest running and best known hero – graces the walls and display cases at Andover Historical. If you haven’t already, feel free to stop in and take a look at these wonderfully preserved textiles, manuscripts, etchings and sundry other interesting pieces from the early days of this country.

The Washington exhibit launched a theme Andover Historical will be exploring over the next several months – that of “Heroes Among Us.” Presidents and Superheroes aside, most of us could probably name a hero important to us. A person known to us or admired from afar may touch us for acts of bravery or selfless behavior, or a skill that inspires awe. Sometimes a hero is a very personal choice and even if not clearly defined, most of us “know one when we see one.”

Heroes are important in our culture as we generally want to do better at what we do, be a better person, and aspire to being the best we can be. The late David Bowie famously sang that “we can be heroes, just for one day.” Just for one day think about those you would recognize and honor as heroes. Just for one day be a hero. And share with us who your heroes are. Come visit our exhibit and honor your very own hero – and thank you for sharing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan McKelliget
President, Andover Historical Society



Get involved!

Volunteers are our heroes

Did you know that over 120 people volunteer their time to Andover Historical? We could not provide all the services and programs we do without our volunteers. Our hero volunteers solve mysteries in the collection, research and teach programs, write articles and exhibits, create historical costumes for school programs, repair and paint the Blanchard House, tell stories in our Behind the Scenes and Andover 101 programs, and so much more. If you can see yourself in any of these roles, or if you have something else to contribute, please let us know. We would love to hear from you! Call us at 978-475-2236, or visit on-line at www.andoverhistorical.org/discover-involvement.

LOCAL UNSUNG HEROES – CITIZENS WHO CARE

Since 1996, the Rotary Club of Andover has been honoring and celebrating Andover's unsung heroes through its Citizens Who Care program. Every year the club encourages nominations from the community, seeking ordinary people who have done extraordinary things. Honorees are recognized at an annual gala event surrounded by their family, friends, and colleagues.

Local photographers donate their services to create beautiful photographic portraits of honorees. For many years Rotarian Mark Spencer was the Citizens Who Care

photographer. In 2015, Andover photographer Robert Huntley succeeded Mark Spencer as the Citizens Who Care photographer. Each honoree is presented with a framed copy of his/her portrait at the annual event. These beautiful portraits are preserved in the collections of Andover Historical, creating a wonderful record of Andover's everyday local heroes for generations to come.

The Rotary Club of Andover has recognized over 150 Citizens Who Care. Here are just a few:



Margot Bixby 2002
#2004.001.9



Al Retelle 2005
#2007.045.8



Susie Novick 2013
#2015.049.13

The Rotary Club of Andover accepts nominations between January and March of each year, and the Citizens Who Care event typically takes place in May. For more information, visit the Rotary Club website at www.rotaryandover.org.

From 1996 to 2013, large-scale mounted portraits of each year's Citizens Who Care honorees were displayed throughout the town and then archived with Andover Historical. It was a large, heavy display that was difficult to move around, and the mounted portraits quickly began to consume significant space in our limited archives facility.

In 2014, Andover Rotary began to produce a lightweight traveling display on flexible vinyl banners, and the digital images were archived with Andover Historical. In 2015, high resolution digital image records for each of the over 150 Citizens Who Care portraits were saved to Andover Historical's collections database. The digital images are of such a high resolution that we will be able to easily produce high-quality printed copies upon request.

Andover Historical has been accessioning digital files into the collection for a number of years now. The move frees up much needed space while allowing donors to keep their original document or photograph. This also means that we will be releasing the large-scale mounted Citizens Who Care portraits from the collection and making them available to honorees and their families. Due to the potential volume of inquiries, we can only handle requests by appointment. If you're interested, please call us at 978-475-2236 to make an appointment.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Andover 101

Sunday, April 3rd – 1:00 pm

The first time we hosted our Andover 101 program it sold out twice...so we decided to do it again! Join us Sunday, April 3rd from 1:00-2:15pm for Andover 101, an unstuffy one-hour introduction to the stories that contributed to creating the Andover we know today. Please join us as we share these stories in a fun and lively presentation.

Andover 101 is free of charge. Reserve your space on our website www.andoverhistorical.org/register or call us at 978-475-2236. Sessions fill quickly and space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Neighborhood Program: Haggetts Pond and “West-West” Andover

Sunday, April 10th – 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm

The western edge of West Andover has experienced significant change since the town’s founding. Do you know the story behind Ironstone Farm and their Therapeutic Riding Program? What was Osgood Street like before Interstate 93 cut through it? How has the Andover Village Improvement Society preserved green space and land once inhabited by the Penacook people? Join us to learn more at our next neighborhood program.

All Andover Neighborhood Programs are open to the public and free of charge but reservations are requested.

To reserve your seat, please call the office at 978.475.2236. Or visit on-line at www.andoverhistorical.org/register

Bring Us Your Washingtons!

Thursday, April 28th 7pm

As soon as we opened the Washington exhibit, people started to bring us their Washingtons. So this Annual Meeting, April 28th, we decided to embrace the movement and

invite you to Bring Us Your Washingtons! Whether it’s a coffee mug from a trip to Mount Vernon, or an 18th century portrait of the great man, we look forward to seeing the variety of items and the stories behind them.

Follow Us On Instagram!

Instagram is a wonderful tool to share what is happening at the Blanchard house and the variety of items in our collections. And, just as important, Instagram allows you to share your experiences with us. To kick off our new Instagram account we will be hosting monthly photo and scavenger hunt contests. To participate, just follow us on Instagram and “like” us on Facebook. This is your chance to show us your creativity and knowledge of Andover history, and have a bit of fun too!

The theme for March will be #StrikeAPoseForHistory. How well can you pose like George Washington? Can you top this photo of Historical Society staff and board members? In April, we will debut another contest theme so be sure to check our Facebook page and Instagram feed for more information.



ANDOVER AT WORK IN THE 1820s – HELP US SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

Since 1982, Andover at Work has been giving elementary school children the opportunity to explore life in Andover during the 1820s, and compare it to their own lives. This hands-on, lively program is run with the help of dedicated volunteers who have a love of community service, and enjoy the unique experience of working with children in a museum environment.

Costumed volunteers guide students and chaperones through an approximately 2-hour program that runs in the mornings from April through mid-June at the Blanchard House. We are looking for 6-8 new volunteers

to participate in the program and join the ranks of our amazing volunteers.

People who are passionate about our mission to gather and share Andover’s unique stories are encouraged to apply! No teaching experience is needed and a training session is provided in April for all volunteers.

Contact Lauren Kosky-Stamm, Director of Programs and Social Media at lkosky-stamm@andoverhistorical.org or 978-475-2236 to learn how you can get involved in this fun, community-driven program.

AFRICAN-AMERICANS FOUGHT FOR ANDOVER'S INDEPENDENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pomp died in 1826 at the age of 102. Perhaps the proudest tribute paid to him appears in South Parish Burial Grounds. His granite headstone reads: "Born in Boston a slave; died in Andover a freeman. Much respected, as a sensible amiable and upright man."

Following the Lexington encounter, Andover troops were placed under the command of Captains Benjamin Ames, Charles Furbush and Benjamin Farnum and were deployed in a semi-circle around the city of Boston. About 11 pm on the 16th of June they began to build entrenchments on Bunker Hill. The next day they faced the British. Six African-Americans were among the Andover troops. Two of them made history.

It is unknown exactly how it happened, but Salem Poor became a hero that day. Andover historian Sarah Loring Bailey reported that as the "regulars" retreated from the hill a British officer proclaimed victory. Salem turned, took aim and fired, mortally wounding Lt. Col. James Abercrombie. He was commended by fourteen of his officers, who had witnessed the act, as "a brave and gallant soldier."

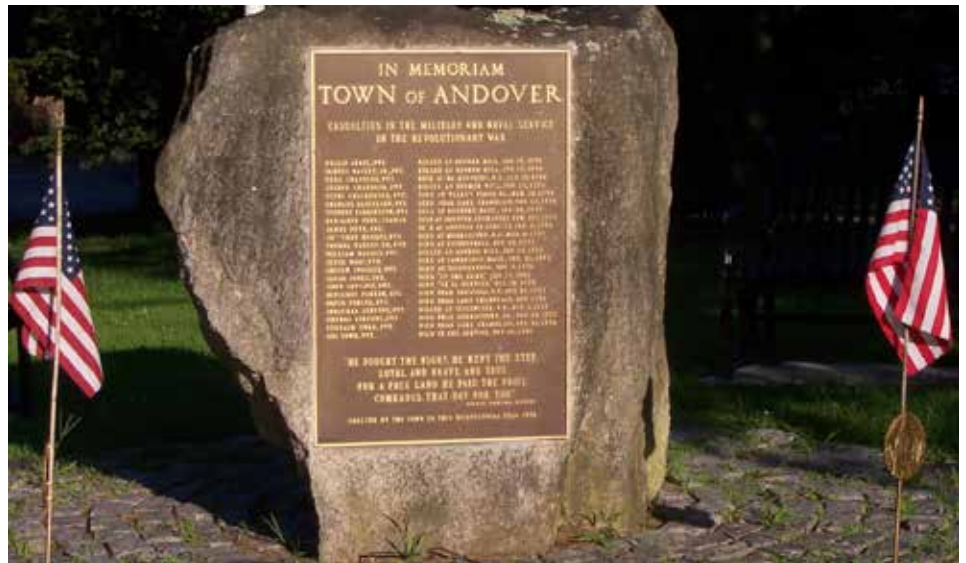
Salem Poor was an infant when he was purchased from a Salem slave market and carried to Andover on horseback. In 1769, at the age of 27, he purchased his freedom for the sum of 27 pounds. He was a private in Captain Benjamin Ames' Company on that fateful day of June 17, 1775.

Philip Abbot was not so fortunate. He was one of four Andover men who were killed at Bunker Hill. Little is

known about his life except that he was the servant of Nathan Abbot. His sacrifice is remembered today on Andover's Revolutionary War Monument located at the corner of Central and School Streets.

Company joined the encampment at Valley Forge where Washington's army of 11,000 men had gathered. The Andover men were not spared from the misery that abounded during that 6-month period. One-third of the company was considered unfit for duty due to the lack of clothing or shoes. African-American enlistees included Samson Frye, Prince Ames, Caesar Cogswell, Cato Foster and Titus Chickering. Cogswell, Chickering and Foster were listed in unfit condition. Titus Chickering did not survive.

In 1779, Cato Foster re-enlisted in the 10th Massachusetts Regiment. The twenty-year old was

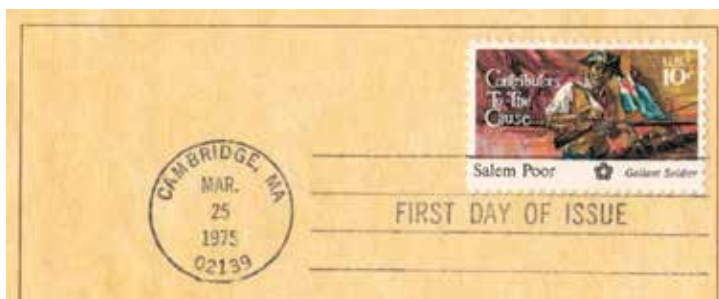


Philip Abbot and Titus Chickering are remembered on Andover's Revolutionary War Monument

promoted to drummer, an important but dangerous position. Drummers were responsible for keeping order in battle and assuring that soldiers functioned as a unit. Because he signaled commands to the troops while on the battlefield, he was often the target of enemy fire. In 1780, Cato was promoted to the rank of corporal.

The military record of another African-American, Caesar Russell, also ties into the story of Valley Forge. In 1781, at the age of 16 he enlisted for a 3-year term in the Continental Army. The record shows he served with the 7th Massachusetts Regiment in 1783 as orderly to Captain William North, who was aide-de-camp to General Friedrich von Steuben. The renowned Prussian general had trained American troops at Valley Forge during the winter of 1778 and was credited with reviving their spirit and fighting skill.

Throughout the Revolution, Andover's African-American soldiers risked their lives for freedom. Their ultimate achievement was reflected in the proud names chosen by Cato Freeman, Cato Liberty, and Free Parker.



Salem Poor's heroism is commemorated with this stamp issued during the Bicentennial in 1975 #2005.052.7

known about his life except that he was the servant of Nathan Abbot. His sacrifice is remembered today on Andover's Revolutionary War Monument located at the corner of Central and School Streets.

In the winter of 1778, Captain Benjamin Farnum's



Bill Fahey 2001 #2002.058.1a

ANDOVER HERO

by Ben Dick, Andover High School, Class of 2017

The term “hero” can be associated with many things. When most people think of heroes, they think of superheroes, and people who are larger than life. Or people who create impact towards whatever cause they are passionate about. In my opinion, though, a hero can be a hero without also being a household name. It is the subtle, quiet actions that make a hero, not the ones that everyone always knows about. Yet the hero is still well-known. This is why Bill Fahey is a true Andover hero.

Bill is the man behind Andover Youth Services, and has been since 1994. He has changed AYS from a one-man operation run out of a truck into a very respected and praised organization in a town where praise is not given

easily. I remember when I was in middle school, AYS would always run programs through the school. I would do the programs with my friends and the programs were always enjoyable. The Pearson Street building was also always available when there was nothing to do after school. You could play basketball or just hang out inside. There were always other people there to have fun with.

Now, through the tireless efforts of Bill and others who spent numerous hours on yearly telethons and other fundraising activities, we have a new youth center. Andover’s youth will forever have somewhere to go, and something to do to keep them out of trouble. We, as a town, have Bill Fahey to thank for that.

HAROLD RAFTON (1890-1982) – A TRUE ANDOVER HERO

by John Hess

Andover is what it is today because of the visionary leadership of Harold Robert Rafton. Mr. Rafton was an avid conservationist who also could see that open space benefited the entire town and not just those who like to hike in the woods. Starting in the late 1950’s, as head of the Land Committee, he was able to acquire hundreds of acres of land for the Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) in order to protect it from development. AVIS held very little land before his time and there was no Andover Conservation Commission. In fact, the enthusiasm Harold Rafton generated helped galvanize others to form the Andover Conservation Commission which has also protected Andover’s beautiful open spaces.

These two organizations, one the Town and the other an entirely volunteer organization, own or manage over 3,000 acres of property where citizens have access to trails, fields, streams, ponds, and forested areas and where wildlife and plant species are protected.

A quote in the *Lawrence Eagle-Tribune* shows why Mr. Rafton earned the nickname of Mr. Conservation. He said that “*Man is part of nature, but the way we let our park areas [be destroyed], which can never be replaced once they are gone, you’d think that man and nature were enemies.*” Many generations to come will benefit from Mr. Rafton’s work to protect our natural environment. As former AVIS President Nat Smith said recently, “*With each passing year we appreciate ever more the twinkle in his eye, his foresight and his truly remarkable ability to get the job done. His was a straight forward quest, his effective retirement project; and he’d chuckle saying ‘We’ve got to get this piece of land, Nat, they’re not making any more of it.’*”

One of the most recognized reservations acquired by AVIS under Mr. Rafton’s guidance is the Deer Jump Reservation which is along the Merrimack River. Not only does it serve as an excellent recreational area but it also helps to protect the Merrimack River waterfront from development. To honor the extensive effort of Mr. Rafton to preserve land in Andover, in 1968 AVIS named its largest reservation (226 acres) the Harold R. Rafton Reservation. It is located off High Plain Road and is a fitting tribute to the man who helped AVIS acquire this wonderful property.



Harold and Helen Rafton with
Phil Dargie (center)

As we've been exploring "heroes" this season, I am ever mindful of our everyday heroes. Everyday heroes are often defined as "ordinary people doing extraordinary things." That's true but, for me, there's another story there. It's the story of those who show up and simply do what they have said they will do. As Woody Allen is said to have said, "Showing up is 80% of life," and so I keep coming back to the people who show up: parents, friends, nurses, teachers, coaches, firefighters, and the list goes on.

We asked Andover Fire Rescue Administrative Assistant (and Andover Historical volunteer) Marcie Jacobson to write about Andover's dedicated firefighters who show up every day as our everyday heroes.

— ELAINE CLEMENTS

FIREFIGHTERS – COMMUNITY HEROES

By Marcie Jacobson

Who is a firefighter? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary a firefighter is a member of a group that works to put out fires. While that was true 100 years ago, it is not the case anymore. A firefighter does a lot more than put out fires. One aspect of firefighting is not fighting fires at all — it's working to prevent fires in the first place through the delivery of fire prevention programs.

Firefighters perform inspections of buildings to ensure that there are working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and sprinkler systems, and look for potential fire and safety hazards. They also look to make sure the egress and access areas are clear of debris so that the occupants can easily exit the building if there were an emergency. A firefighter, as part of a team, will also visit local schools to speak to children about fire safety and run fire drills, so that the children know how to quickly and safely exit a building. However, if there is a fire they will show up on the fire apparatus in full firefighting gear to extinguish a fire or mitigate any emergency situation.

When firefighters are not involved in fire prevention or putting out fires they use their skills to perform various types of rescues. If someone falls down a steep incline, a firefighter will perform a rope rescue by securing the victim to a Stokes basket with ropes and pull the victim up the incline. If someone falls through the ice on a pond, a firefighter will perform an ice rescue. A firefighter will don a water rescue suit hooked to a rope held by fellow

firefighters and will carefully crawl on their stomachs to reach the victim in the water. If there is a motor vehicle accident with a victim trapped in a vehicle, the firefighters will perform a car extrication. They will use very powerful hydraulic tools to remove the roof, doors and/or push the dashboard off the victim if necessary.

What happens to the victims once the firefighter rescues them? Andover Fire Rescue also operates two ambulances that are staffed by firefighters cross trained in



Andover Firefighters do much for the community. Here they sang "America" for Andover Historical's video

not only firefighting but also have the skill set to provide emergency medical services to those who are sick and injured. The victim is turned over to the firefighter/EMT's on the ambulance and receives medical attention on the way to the hospital.

Today a firefighter has to have medical, firefighting and rescue knowledge in order to fully do their job as part of a team. A firefighter is trained to adapt to the ever-changing and more challenging world we live in.

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Essex County
Community Foundation



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Second Sunday of every month: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
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*Fire Chief Edward Buchan's Badge
#2014.029.6 Gift of Dr. Wayne Zeilenga
Given in memory of Barbara (Buchan) Zeilenga*