



ANDOVER
CENTER
FOR
HISTORY
& CULTURE

97 Main Street, Andover, MA
AndoverHistoryandCulture.org

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generations*

Inside Your Winter 2020 Newsletter

Four Pieces of Cloth Are All That Remain

Fragile Silk and Family Stories

Why We Give: Marty & Kate Belscher

Our THANKSgiving for YOU!

Marjorie Emmons West's 1934 wedding portrait, story page 3

Born into slavery and brought to Andover

Four pieces of cloth are all that remain of her story of slavery and freedom

Thanks to you, someday her whole story might be told

As an enslaved woman, no one gathered and saved Rose Foster Lovejoy's story. All that remains are four pieces of fabric said to be from her wedding dress. These simple pieces of cloth raise many questions. Questions answered someday, we hope, thanks to you.

So little is known about her life. Rose was born into slavery in 1727. She was brought captive to Andover by John Foster, and in 1751 she married Pompey Lovejoy who was enslaved by Captain William Lovejoy. Following John Foster's death, Rose was willed to his wife. She continued in her slave condition until Massachusetts abolished slavery in 1783. Rose and Pompey lived by what is known as Pomp's Pond. They ran a bake cart with cake, beef, beer, and other items on election days.

Each fabric piece is from the same piece of striped linsey-woolsey fabric. Each was donated to the History Center by a different person. In 1924, two pieces were donated by the estate of Mary Ballard. In 1936, another was donated by Alice Carey Jenkins. In 1945, yet another piece was donated by Dr. Edward D. Lovejoy.

Why was a piece of clothing, said to be the wedding dress of a formerly enslaved woman, saved, cut up, and given to so many people?

South Church connection

Mary Ballard and Alice Jenkins were both members of South Church, where Rose and Pompey Lovejoy are buried. Was the dress divided and shared among South Church members?



Rose Lovejoy's tombstone was erected in the South Church Burial Ground in the late 19th century.

A family legacy of slavery

Each family – Ballard, Jenkins, and Lovejoy – was descended from Andover's earliest European settlers. Each family also had a history of holding enslaved people captive. Edward Lovejoy, who donated the last piece in 1945, was descended from the brother of the man who bought and enslaved Rose's husband Pompey Lovejoy.

Trying to right past wrongs?

By the early 1800s, however, members of each family were ardent abolitionists. Could that change in perspective be related? Was saving pieces of Rose Lovejoy's dress a way of publicly affirming that change?

So many questions. So much more to learn.



Long before white wedding dresses became the norm, brides were married wearing their best dress. With its vibrant colors, this linsey-woolsey could have been a best dress worn for a wedding. We may never know for certain if it was Rose Lovejoy's.

Thanks to your support, questions like these will continue to be asked...to try to shed light on Andover's past. You help ask those questions. Even those, like Rose Foster Lovejoy's, that might never be answered.



Alma Sparsam's 1908 fragile silk wedding dress



Marjorie West's white silk satin wedding dress from the cover photo.

Generations of Giving Grandmother, Mother, Daughter Share Their Stories

Fragile silk and family stories you help preserve

In 1984, Marjorie West Emmons brought her mother Alma's 1908 wedding dress and story to the History Center. In 2018, Marjorie's daughter Joanne Smith also brought a wedding dress to the History Center. It was the dress Marjorie wore for her wedding in 1934.

Generations of Andover stories preserved with your help

Alma Joanna Sparsam, married 1908

After 110 years, Alma's silk wedding gown is too fragile to display. But the story it tells of a young immigrant from Soreau, Prussia, meeting and marrying, and then moving to Andover to raise her family lives on.

Marjorie E. West, married 1934

Marjorie's 1934 wedding was described in detail in the Andover Townsman. *"Marjorie E. West married William V. Emmons...at a pretty ceremony held at the home of the bride's uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. Albert E. Hulme on Main Street...The bride was charming in a gown of white satin and lace with a tulle veil. She carried a bouquet of white roses."*



Alma's daughter Marjorie and her husband to be, William Emmons, both graduated from Punchard High School in 1927.

Thank you! You help make progress every day. There are so many more stories waiting to be found and shared. These are just a few items in a collection of over 50,000 treasures that are here for you today, and for future generations. Thanks to you!

The tradition continues...

In October, Marjorie's daughter came to the History Center's annual Be Giving gala, where her mother's and grandmother's wedding dresses were on display. Perhaps someday the next generation will continue the tradition!

Maybe vintage wedding dresses don't speak to you, but – as a lover of history – you've felt the connection with a story or treasure from the past. Did the story intrigue you, pique your curiosity, inspire joy, give you perspective, or open up a new discovery? Thanks to you, the treasures in the History Center collection are cared for, researched, and shared – here for generations to come. You help make sure Andover's stories are available for all of us!



St. Augustine school THANKSgiving pilgrims, 1950's

Why We Give: Marty & Kate Belscher

Kate and I donate to the History Center on an ongoing and monthly basis to do our part to help provide a predictable financial basis to support the Center's outstanding programs.

History and culture are fascinating, whether it's about the world, or nation, or the part of Andover we live in. Andover is steeped in Native American history, Puritan culture, mills, immigration, and diversity. That is reason enough to preserve and share records.

But even more important: history is a teacher. Winston Churchill wrote, "Those that fail to learn history are doomed to repeat it."



Monthly donors Marty and Kate Belscher share why they support the History Center with a monthly gift.

The History Center's library, collections and programs provide opportunities to learn from our past and apply the insights gained to opportunities and problems in Andover and beyond. It has the potential to make all of us better citizens.

Andover Center for History & Culture
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Once your family has been provided for, a gift in your will is a wonderful way to leave a legacy and help preserve Andover's history. Please consider adding a gift in your will for the Andover Center for History & Culture. Questions? Please call Marilyn Helmers, Director of Donor Relations at 978-475-2236.