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(Above) AHS volunteers, Andover Day 2014 (L to R, Ginny Champagne, Jim Redmond, Amanda Singer, Doug Mitchell, and Angela McBrien)

(Left) Detail, Harlequin, costume design, H. Winthrop Peirce, Gift of Mary Peirce Smith (Mrs. Royal Ellsworth) #1978.405.8

CLUBS: ANDOVER'S COMMON GROUND

by Tom Adams, Editor

Since its earliest days clubs have drawn Andover residents together. Andover has embraced literally hundreds of organizations addressing a widely diverse, always expanding set of issues, interests, and concerns. The mission of each club is simple yet their impact is profound. Members take pride in helping to make the world, and Andover, a better place to live. Clubs today, be they social, fraternal, or sports-related, continue to serve the greater good.

Here is a peek into three organizations that helped make Andover uniquely the community it is today.

In 1919, the American Woolen Company announced plans to build a mill complex in Frye Village. The village was rebuilt as a model corporate community and became the site of the company's new headquarters at Balmoral. The mill began operating in 1922. Within two years the village had grown to more than 200 houses and several community buildings. It provided residents with tennis courts, a swimming area, a bowling green, an athletic field, and a golf course. Employees rented their homes from the company - brick structures were reserved for upper management; wooden buildings for those of lesser stature. Creating this industrial utopia brought with it a need for social and community interaction among new residents.

In 1921, twelve women formed "*The Peptomistic Club.*" Invitations to an inaugural meeting, whose purpose was "to learn, to teach, to serve and to enjoy," blanketed Shawsheen Village. Out of that, the Shawsheen Village Women's Club was born. In its early years the club had current event classes and book reviews. Instruction was also given in needlework, millinery, rug-making, and tray painting. A choral group was formed and performed for many years. Volunteering and community service were required of club members. During the Great Depression, for example, club

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

FALL 2016



Read on through this newsletter issue and you will discover that there were many interesting clubs in Andover over the years. Before the advent of telephones, radios, movies, and automobiles, roughly the first few decades of the 1900's, clubs were vital to the livelihood of Andover citizens for all kinds of reasons.

Through clubs, Andover educated youth, cared for those in need, and did what they could to care for and transform their community.

Almost every church had a "club" involved in the year round work of aiding parishioners in need as there was no government assistance at this time. During both World Wars many spent their time helping soldiers and allies abroad by knitting blankets, rolling bandages and raising money -- or whatever they could do for the war effort.

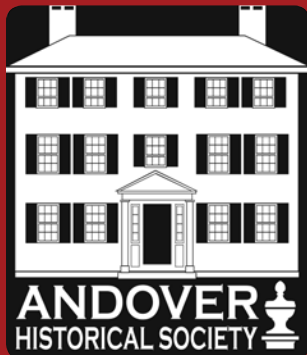
Still surviving in town since its inception in 1922, the Parent Teacher Association has grown from a club focused on such things as teaching awareness of hygiene in the schools and organizing Brownie troops, to the involvement of so many parents and teachers today in the lives of Andover's school children.

When the Andover Equal Suffrage Association, after many years of hard work in Andover, obtained its goal of getting women the vote in 1920, it dissolved itself and became reborn as the League of Women Voters in 1921. The League now includes women and men from North Andover, as well as Andover, and continues to encourage voting and to sponsor candidates' forums and programs of national, state and local concerns.

Clubs have been on the wane since the mid 1940's as other forms of entertainment and social connections have taken over. Still, the notion is the same. Then as now, clubs serve an important role in doing what is key to our mission also -- Educating for the Future and Connecting to our Community!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan".

Susan McKelliget
President, Andover Historical Society



Get involved!

Andover is fortunate to have many groups and clubs, all helping to steward the town and community. Whether your interest is the great outdoors, youth, community service, sports, or the love of language and the arts, there's a dedicated group in Andover that shares your passion. Of course, if you love a good local story, if history speaks to you, or if you love a good mystery, get involved with Andover Historical! For 105 years, Andover Historical has relied on talented and enthusiastic volunteers to fulfill our mission of preserving and sharing Andover's stories and fostering community engagement. Drop by any Tuesday through Saturday. Give us a call at 978-475-2236. Or visit our website, andoverhistorical.org. Get involved!

ANDOVER'S BARNSTORMERS

by Tom Adams, Editor

The theatrical community in Andover has always had a thirst for the footlights and greasepaint. Never more so than at the turn of the 20th century. The Andover Dramatic Club, best known as 'The Barnstormers,' took center stage. Their mission was to give everyone the opportunity to explore their best by performing in a play. Explaining to the *Andover Townsman*, The Barnstormers "...ask its active members to play alternatively important parts and very smallest roles, in that way giving each one opportunity to express the best that is in him, in giving the managers the chance

to learn in what line each member is most successful, so that in time they could appropriately cast every play." The Barnstormers became so popular that they increased their performance schedule and audience by selling tickets to the general public. Performances during World War I were scaled back because key players were in the armed forces fighting overseas. Wartime benefit performances in 1914 and 1915, however, continued to raise money and awareness for causes like the Belgium Relief Fund.

The Barnstormers drew many of its actors and volunteers from a town rich in talent and full of those willing to lend a hand behind the scenes. Three members stand out front and center.

Winthrop Peirce was a Boston-born artist, a much heralded landscape and portrait painter, and a skilled wood carver who created commissioned custom works. In the 1890s, Peirce exhibited work at the Boston Art Club, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Art Institute of Chicago. The *Townsman* on April 21, 1916 wrote that Peirce "will give an art exhibition at the Paint Box on April 22, 23, 24, at 36 Morton St., Andover. A portrait of Edwin Lathrop Baker and a group of sketches of *The Fancy of My Youth* and all of Peirce's



Programs from Barnstormer Productions
Gift of Mary Peirce Smith (Mrs. Royal Ellsworth) #1978.405.12a, .13, and .14

workmanship will be shown." Peirce founded The Barnstormers, applying his talents designing costumes and sets for the company.

Addison LeBoutillier was a noted architect designing homes, public buildings, and churches. LeBoutillier was also a versatile artist creating images that remain highly valued among collectors today. His works are included in major public collections including the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Beyond his impact as an artist and designer, Le Boutillier left his imprint on the local theater community where he and his wife were quite active during their years in Andover. The January 15, 1926 *Andover Townsman* noted their lead roles in *The Florist Shop*, a play performed at Old Town Hall. The article further lauded LeBoutillier's talent as a set designer.

Leonard Sherman was a popular, much-in-demand photographer. By 1902, his photo business, the Andover Artist Studio, was thriving. A talented artist, Sherman is also credited with refining the Andover Town Logo Seal from the William Harnden Foster's design accepted by the town in 1903. Sherman was an important member of The Barnstormer's acting troupe.

The Barnstormers returned to the stage following WWI and continued to perform until 1926.

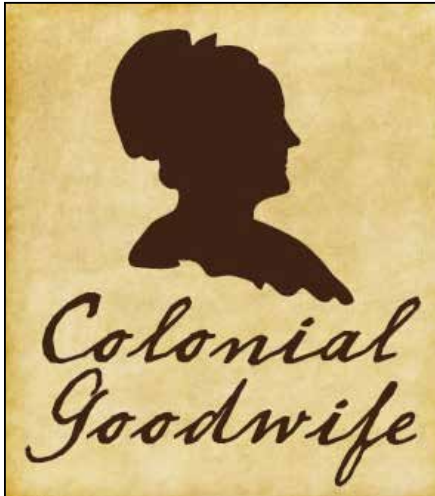
BEWITCHED IN ANDOVER'S PROGRAMS

Ghost Stories in the Blanchard Barn

Wednesday, October 5th, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Blanchard Barn, Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street, Andover

Join us for an evening of ghost stories in the Blanchard Barn. Take a seat on a hay bale and enjoy a treat as you listen to a selection of spooky ghost stories, including an original story set in Andover in the 1820's titled, *The Handkerchief*, written by Andover resident Katherine Finley. This program is suitable for elementary school-aged children and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and limited to 20 attendees. The cost for this event is \$5 per person for members (adult and child) and \$10 per person (adult and child) for non-members.



The Not-So-Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife

Saturday, October 15th, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Gallery, Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street, Andover

Grab some friends, enjoy a glass of wine or hard cider and hear Velya Jancz-Urban give a lively presentation about all the things you wondered about women's lives in the colonial period but were afraid to ask. "*The Not-So-Good Life of The Colonial Goodwife* not only makes audience members laugh and grimace, but it also honors our foremothers. It's not about quilting bees and spinning wheels - it's an interactive presentation about the little-known issues faced by New England's colonial women." Registration is required. The cost for this event is \$10 per person for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Don't miss this unique Ladies-Night-Out event. Gentlemen you are welcome too! Seats are limited to 50.

Voices from the Grave, Evening Tour of Phillips Academy Chapel Cemetery

Sunday October 16th, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Chapel Ave., Phillips Academy, Andover

Join Gail Ralston on an engaging tour of Phillips Academy's Chapel Cemetery. Learn about some of the more distinctive gravestones, hear stories about the lives of those buried, and be prepared for a unique candlelight conclusion to the tour. Reservations are required and limited to 15. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members



Blanchard House Murder Mystery Dinner

Saturday, October 22nd, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street, Andover

Do you need a little mystery in your life? Come to the Andover Historical Society for an evening of murder, mystery and fun set in the year 1912. Henry Robinson, the owner of the Blanchard House has invited you to a lovely dinner party until the evening turns sinister when someone is murdered! Guests for this event will be assigned a role as an Andover resident from the past and spend the evening enjoying dinner, cocktails and a little detective work! Can you help solve this murder mystery? Registration is required. Tickets are \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members. The dinner is limited to 24 guests so don't wait to sign up.

Continued on page 13



Andover Historical Society connects people with each other to inspire and deepen community engagement by gathering and sharing Andover's stories.

*PRESERVING THE PAST EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE
CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY*



OUR MISSION IN PICTURES





Page 6 Starting at top: Volunteers enjoy the Appreciation Lobster Party; Guest learn to write with quill pens, Andover Day; Historical Society's Passages Angel for Andover's Coalition for Education; Volunteers march in annual Santa Parade

Page 7 Starting at top: Presidents, current and former in traditional pose at February reception; Adam Brooks, weekend staff member and curator of George Washington: Hero, Demigod, Face of a New Nation, presents a special gallery talk; Executive Director, Elaine Clements and Rotary Past President, Don Gottfreid with Citizens Who Care honorees, Nina Caron, and Rosalyn Wood; Maryruth Luther in action during the Andover at Work in the 1820s program; Enrapt audience at one of the Andover 101 programs; New trustee, Mary Robb and Marc Fournier introduced at April's Annual Meeting.

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Doug Mitchell, Board Member and Andover High student, Rory O'Brien, testimonial speakers at Spring for History

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Tallulah Judge. Age 6, shares her hero, her mom with George We Can Be Heroes Program February 2016

On page 5, the cover of the 2016 Annual Donor Roll: Staffordshire Poodle. Gift of Frederick E. Cheever #1965.080.2b

BEWITCHED IN ANDOVER'S PROGRAMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Witches of Fosters Pond Hike

Sunday, October 23rd, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Goldsmith Woodlands, Route 28 in Andover

Andover's many scenic, wooded reservations and conservation areas are today cherished as sources of recreation and spiritual renewal, but in the seventeenth century, New England's forests were seen as an impenetrable evil; home to voracious wolves, marauding Indians, and – worst of all -- a malicious, lurking devil.

Join Andover Trails for a hike of the Goldsmith Woodlands on Route 28 in Andover. The Andover Historical Society's Jane Cairns will share stories of Ann Foster and Martha Carrier, near neighbors of Foster's Pond, as well as other Andover residents accused of witchcraft during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. The hike is free and open to the public, consists of relatively level walking, and will take about 2 hours. Parking for several cars is available in the reservation parking lot, with additional on-street parking available across Route 28 on Gould Road.



Where No Man Has Gone Before walking tour of South Parish Burial Grounds

Sunday, October 30th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

South Church Cemetery, 41 Central St. Andover

Char Lyons, South Church cemetery historian, takes you through part of the burial ground often overlooked. Explore the stones from as early as the 1700's including Andover residents who fought in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Reservations are required and limited to 15. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members

Neighborhood Program: Stories from the Shawsheen River, Pomp's Pond & Spring Grove Cemetery

Sunday November 6th, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm

Gallery, Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St. Andover

How many of you have enjoyed the cool water of Pomp's Pond on a summer day and wondered about the man for whom the pond was named? Did you know Daniel Webster, famous orator and former Secretary of State gave a speech to a large assembly of residents in a naturally formed "amphitheater" located just off present-day Central Street in 1843? Why do abandoned railroad tracks run through the middle of Spring Grove Cemetery? Join us for a lively presentation that explores this fascinating area of town. This program is free and open to the public but registration is required.



**Visit <http://www.andoverhistorical.org/register>
to register for these programs.**

CLUBS: ANDOVER'S COMMON GROUND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



*Photograph, Shawsheen Indians, 1924–1925 U.S. National Soccer Champions
Gift of Moira Nixon McLaughlin #1995.069.1*

members were actively involved in the community, providing shoes and milk for needy children. The club remains active to this day.

Scottish organizations dotted the United States and Canada during the 1870s, each one dedicated to preserving its Scottish heritage. None, however, provided sickness or death benefits to members and dependents until the founding of the Order of Scottish Clans in 1878. Clan Johnson No. 185 was duly instituted and nationally recognized in 1908. The Flint Barn, located on the grounds of the old John Flint mansion near Elm Square became their meeting place. Through its music program Clan Johnson gained a measure of local fame. Its double quartet of trombone players gave many concerts at the War Memorial tower on the Phillips Academy campus and over local radio. Clan Johnson accepted their last new member in 1968.

In 1924 George Wallace, private secretary to William Wood owner of the American Woolen Company, took over as manager of the Shawsheen Indians. Wallace had a vision of the Indians dominating the U.S. soccer world. Wallace convinced Mr. Wood to sponsor the team and to fund the building of a new soccer stadium. In 1924, the Indians entered the Massachusetts State Cup for the first time, easily winning the final. Shawsheen moved on to the National League and won its 1924-1925 title. Entering the prestigious National Challenge Cup competition, the Indians won the Cup defeating the Chicago Canadian Club and fulfilling Wallace's long-held dream. Tragically, William Wood died during the

following season. The company's sponsorship ended shortly thereafter. The team soon declared bankruptcy and disbanded.

Like its champion Indians, the Shawsheen Village utopia was short-lived. The mills succumbed to changing times. By the early 1940s nearly all of the administration buildings and houses had fallen into private hands. The American Woolen Company closed the mills in 1953. The village, however, remains with its historic footnote marking its Shawsheen Indians as a national soccer champion.

People coming together supporting a common cause has bound Andover together for the past 370 years. Their noble, often thankless work continues to lift the spirits of Andover to this very day.



*Postcard, Balmoral Tennis Courts, Shawsheen Village
Andover Historical Society purchase #2010.002.1*



Essex County
Community Foundation



massculturalcouncil.org

ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*Tuesday through Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Second Sunday of every month: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.*

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Andover Farmers' Market

Saturdays 10:00 – 2:00

until October 8

at the

**Andover Historical Society
97 Main Street, Andover**