



ANDOVER
CENTER
FOR
HISTORY
& CULTURE

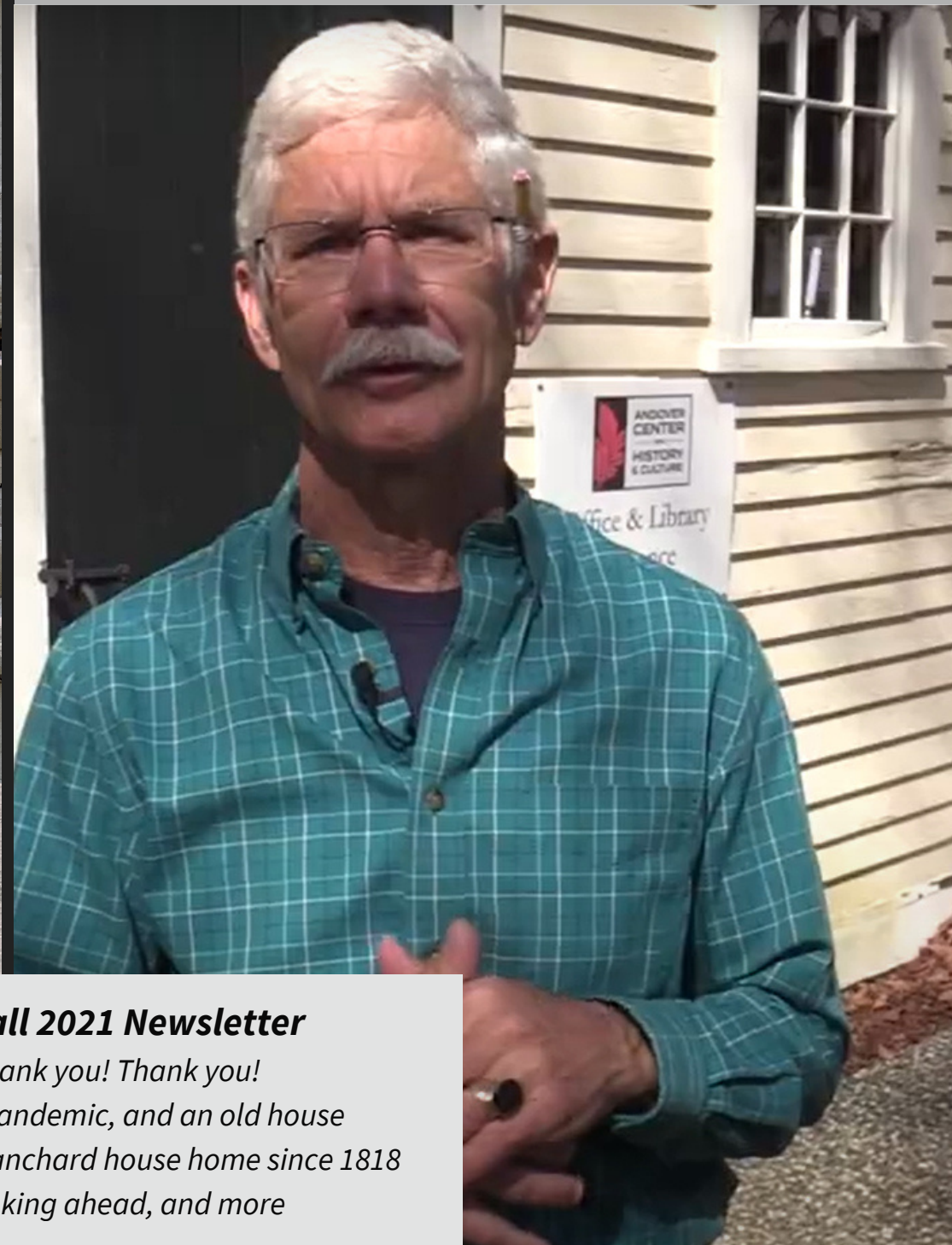
97 Main Street, Andover, MA
AndoverHistoryandCulture.org

CONNECTIONS

Connecting you with the Andover stories you help save

"Thanks to you, help is on the way for this old house"

Marc Fournier, Board of Directors *(You can meet Marc on page 4!)*



Inside Your Fall 2021 Newsletter

- ~ Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
- ~ A disaster, a pandemic, and an old house
- ~ Calling the Blanchard house home since 1818
- ~ Why I Give, looking ahead, and more

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you for your support for much-needed improvements to the 200-year-old Amos Blanchard house and barn. You helped raise \$175,000 to replace roofs, repair and paint exterior wood, upgrade critical systems, and make the grounds around the house an open, welcoming public space.

Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund
The William M. Wood Foundation ~ Greg and Ellen Sebasky ~
<List of donors and foundations, if they approve, etc.>

Time has taken its toll, but....

Thanks to you, and donors like you, the Blanchard house will be beautiful again

Over its 200-year history, the Blanchard house has been witness to the Industrial Revolution, the Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Depression, recessions, winter storms, and technological revolutions. A disaster and a pandemic might slow her down, but the Blanchard house and barn will continue on.

Back in 2018, we began planning for critical capital needs. We had high hopes for starting work on the house during its 200th birthday year.

But then....The contract to switch from oil to gas heat was signed on September 17, 2018. The Merrimack Valley gas explosions disaster happened the next day, September 18. It would be another year and a half before the heat and cooling systems would be installed and we could make necessary improvements to interior systems.

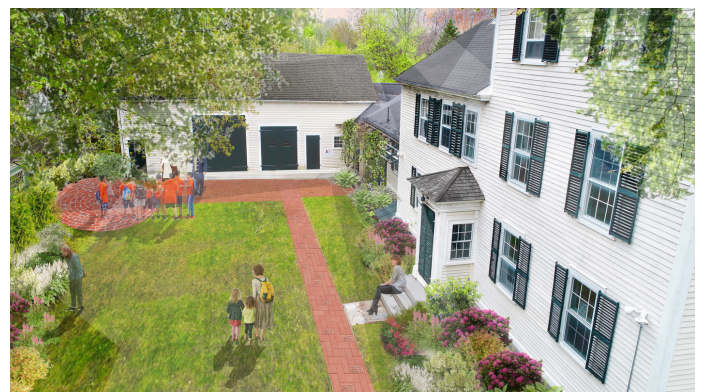
And then....As we were getting ready to start work on the roofs and exterior, the pandemic hit and the History Center closed on March 13, 2020. It wasn't until July 2021 that we opened the doors again. While we were closed, we continued work inside the house.

With your help, improvements were made to the electrical and security systems. Computer technology, in the building and remote, was upgraded. Our roofing contractor held his cost estimate from 2018 and replaced the roofs of the Blanchard house in spring 2021.

And now....Work is delayed due to a shortage of materials and limited contractor availability. Barn roof shingles are delayed indefinitely.

Knowing you're here with us as we work through these challenges has been so encouraging. We're working with contractors to schedule work on the barn roof, exterior, and fence for Spring 2022, with landscaping improvements by Fall of 2022.

Thank you for staying with the History Center and helping see the Blanchard house and barn through three years of disasters and delays!



Artist's rendition of the south facade and lawn. Thank you to Alan Michel and Madison Aronow for their photography and artwork.

"Home is where your heart is"

Calling the Blanchard house home since 1818

1818-1849 ~ Amos and Elizabeth Blanchard built the house. It was later owned by their son the Reverend Amos Blanchard.

1849-1893 ~ Deacon Edward Taylor lived in the house as a boarder before purchasing it. Deacon Taylor was unmarried. His niece Adelaide Taylor was his housekeeper.

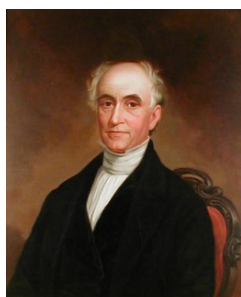
1893-1907 ~ Dr. Selah Merrill and his wife Adelaide Taylor Merrill (Deacon Taylor's niece) owned the house next. Dr. Merrill was an archaeologist and served as American Consul in Jerusalem. Because the Merrills were often out of the country, the house was rented to Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Robinson.

1907-1924 ~ Mr. and Mrs. Henry Robinson purchased the house from the Merrills.

1924-1929 ~ Mrs. Robinson deeded the house to her sister, Miss Caroline M. Underhill.

1929-present ~ Caroline Underhill deeded the house to the Andover Historical Society, now the Andover Center for History and Culture.

Thanks to you, the History Center and the community we serve will call the Blanchard House home long into the future!



Amos Blanchard



The house during Deacon Taylor's ownership

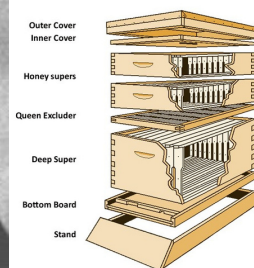


Adelaide & Dr. Selah Merrill

Blanchard House Boarders

Many boarders also called the Blanchard house home. Phillips and Abbot Academy students boarded here. Included among them, Amos Blanchard's great niece, Mary Anna Batchelder.

Reverend Lorenzo Langstroth was a boarder during the Deacon Taylor's ownership.



Reverend Langstroth & the Langstroth hive

Three Fun Facts about the Blanchard house and Reverend Langstroth

#1 The Langstroth Bee Hive, the most commonly-used style of honey beehive in North American, was invented in Andover.

#2 Inventor of the Langstroth Hive, Reverend Lorenzo Langstroth, was a minister at Andover's South Church and a boarder of the Amos Blanchard House, the History Center's home at 97 Main Street.

#3 Langstroth patented his revolutionary new beehive in 1852.

Local legend was that he kept his revolutionary beehive in the third-floor attic near an open window.



Miss Caroline Underhill giving a tour of the Blanchard House to a group of Andover elementary school students, c. 1940-1950

Why I Give

Marc Fournier



I love old houses. When my wife Nan and I moved to Andover in 2010, we immediately visited what was then Andover Historical Society. We were greeted by friendly and knowledgeable staff members and discovered

the fascinating history of our home. Right away, we decided to become members. We've continued to donate and volunteer our time to support this organization ever since.

Over the years, I've used my professional experience in building restoration, carpentry, facilities management, and sustainability to help preserve the historic Blanchard house, barn and grounds. No surprise to anyone, old houses need a lot of work! I enjoy making a difference with hands-on projects.

In 2018, I joined the board of directors to help plan for the future. One major goal is to upgrade our buildings and grounds and make them more sustainable, while maintaining their historical character. Many thanks to the entire community for helping this old house. It is rewarding to see the plan taking shape!

Marc Fournier, MBA, MCA, LEED AP
ACHC Board Member

P.S. Thank you, Marc, for everything you do! Knowing you are watching over the house and grounds means that the staff can focus on programs and services for the community.

~Elaine Clements, Executive Director

Thank you for making these programs possible!



Ballardvale, Shawsheen Village, Historic Mill District, Central Street...Be a tourist in your own backyard!



Walking Tours



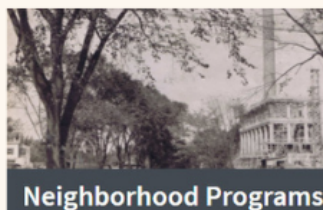
Curious Andover

Are you curious, Andover? Invite your family & friends to learn more about the History Center. Fun facts, myth busters, history stories, & more.

You, too, can hold Andover's history in your hands! Get "up close and personal" with people from Andover's history.



Close Encounters



Neighborhood Programs

From West Andover to Ballardvale, explore an Andover neighborhood you thought you knew all about!

Virtual story-time with Santa broadcasting live from the Blanchard house to your house. PJ's are optional!



Santa Story Time

Learn more & register
AndoverHistoryandCulture.org/Programs

Andover Center for History & Culture
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andoverhistoryandculture.org

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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. Please reach out to Marilyn Helmers, mhelmers@andoverhistoryandculture.org