

Winchendon Historical Society, Inc.

Murdock Whitney House and Museum
151 Front Street P.O. Box 279 Winchendon, MA 01475
Telephone: 978-297-2142 (voice mail)
Website: www.winchendonhistoricalsociety.org
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Volume 6 Issue 2 Winter

December, 2010

Victorian Christmas Tea and Tour

Sunday December 12, 2010

1st Seating: 2:00pm

2nd Seating 3:30pm

\$10 Per Person

RESERVATIONS NEEDED

LIMITED SEATING!

Call: 978-297-2142 for reservations

*Listen to pianist Jane Burgoyne and her daughters
perform selections of Christmas music.*

**TOUR THE BEAUTIFUL
22 ROOM MANSION**

Decorated in Christmas Finery

**Many of the items in our Museum
Store will be on sale!**

Tour The Mansion

For those that don't wish to attend the tea, the mansion
will be open for tours all day on December 12th.

Hours: 11am-5pm

Admission: \$5

Come see the mansion decorated in high
Victorian style!! All 22 rooms will be
available for you to browse at your leisure.

This will be your last opportunity to tour the
mansion until we reopen in the Spring of
2011

Wool Blanket Raffle

We are raffling a gorgeous 100% wool blanket made
entirely from wool from Massachusetts sheep! This
was generously donated by the McDonough's of the
David Brown Farm. Tickets are \$5 and the winner
will be drawn at the Victorian Tea on December
12th.

Winterfest at Old Murdock

Come visit the Old Murdock Senior Center for what is
now becoming a tradition in Winchendon.

There will be many holiday tables decorated to the
nines! Decorated wreaths made by local craftsmen, and
gift baskets will be raffled.

Date: December 4, 2010

Time: 10-4



Message From Your President

Welcome ANNA CARPENTER to the Wednesday Volunteer Staff !!

Anna Carpenter began volunteering at the WHSoc./Museum this year and is a

Regular Wednesday volunteer who works tirelessly in the Anna Broadhurst Research Room assisting Rita Saveall, Curator and her staff. Thank you, Anna. Kerry Bettez has also joined the Wednesday Staff. Kerry is a Researcher who has completed Museum Studies at Tufts, Boston and continues with her studies. The WHSociety is indeed fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who come in every Wednesday year round.

The extensive repairs to the roof on the East side of the museum, has been completed by Duprey Construction and Ashburnham Siding and Roofing Co. The year 2010 has been a busy year with continued maintenance and repairs to the property. The officers and board members of the Winchendon Historical continue to meet the challenges of preserving the largest collection of the society, the building. The Murdock-Whitney House is an historic site, and is listed on the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES.

Director, Don O'Neil, is maintaining the website and just recently downloaded pictures of the Civil War Re-enactment of October 9th and 10th. Visit the web-site to view the pictures along with many other new pictures that have been entered; just click on the Photo Gallery.

The museum guided tours on Wednesday and Sunday afternoon ended October 31st and will resume again the 1st of June 2011. HOWEVER; the business of operating the museum is open on Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. A sale of items in the MUSEUM STORE is available for your holiday shopping. Please note: (with the exception of the history books) Rita and her staff is available to support you with your questions.

Plan to visit us and view the beautifully decorated house during the Holiday Season.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at the Murdock-Whitney House Museum.

Theresa N. Beauvais, President

Recent Events



Summer Teas: The summer teas on the veranda were well attended and enjoyed by many. The weather was beautiful and the porch provided a lovely setting to sip tea and lemonade. We look forward to planning them again next year.



Teddy Bear Picnic: The first of what we hope to be an annual event for the families of Winchendon was enjoyed by all. The David Brown Farm, home to the McDonoughs', was the perfect backdrop for this event. The children were able to see how the Tunis Sheep are sheared, and cared for, as well as the care needed when a newborn arrives. Kids were also able to take part in a felting exercise and made their own felt ball from the wool.

Civil War Re-enactment: The "Battle of Saylor's Creek," was a huge success. This October event at the Murdock Farm was attended by upwards of 2000 people. The weather was perfect for strolling the grounds and watching the re-enactment. This year was the first year that the Historical Society sponsored the event. We can't wait for this fun day to return to Winchendon!

This is an excerpt of the “Shenandoah Dispatch, which was handed out at the re-enactment:

The Battle of Sayler’s Creek

Welcome to the year 1865. There were three separate engagements making up the Battle of Sayler’s Creek. These engagements marked the last battle between the federal Army of the Potomac and the confederate Army of Northern Virginia. After withdrawing from Petersburg, General Lee moved his army west in an attempt to unite with General Joe Johnston’s Army.

General Grant pursued the retreating confederates and kept strong pressure upon it. At Sayler’s Creek, the confederates counter attacked and was able to drive back the Union center, but with the arrival of more Federal troops, the offensive was stopped and the southerners were soon surrounded. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting ensued, but the badly outnumbered rebels were forced to surrender.

The battle took place on April 6, 1865. general Lee, who viewed the battle from a distant ridge and witnessing the survivors of it streaming along the road exclaimed, “My God! Has the Army been dissolved?” nearly 20 percent of Lee’s Army had been killed, wounded or captured, including nine generals. These loses crippled the Southern Army. Three days later, on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the remnants of his half starved army at Appomattox. After four long years, the Civil War was over.

What Did the Soldiers Eat

A ration was the amount of food authorized one man for one day. In 1860, a soldier was entitled to the following daily ration:

- 12 ounces of pork or bacon or 20 ounces of fresh or salt beef
- 20 ounces of soft bread or flour
- 16 ounces of hardtack or 20 ounces of cornmeal
- 3 ounces of beans or peas
- 1.6 ounces of rice or hominy
- 1.6 ounces of green coffee or 1.3 ounces of roasted and ground coffee
- 2.4 ounces of sugar & 1.3 ounces of vinegar
- 0.6 ounces of salt & 0.4 ounces of pepper
- 6 ounces of potatoes & 0.3 ounces of molasses



Fun Holiday Recipes

Fruit Bread

1 c dried fruit (use apricots and prunes)
1c sugar
1 egg
2T shortening
3/4c liquid (1/2c OJ 1/4 liquid (using liquid from soaking apricots & prunes)
2 c flour
1 t flour
1/4 t baking soda
1 t salt
1/2 c walnuts (optional)

Cut fruit in small pieces and soak in warm water for approx 1/2 hr. Drain until ready to use
Beat sugar and shortening – add the egg and beat till well blended
Add the dry mixture alternately with the liquid (drain fruit, only using 1/4 c of the liquid)
Add nuts.

Grease bread loaf pan, flour lightly.

Bake 350 oven for approx 50-55 min. Cool approx. 20/25 min. before removing from pan. Prize winning recipe by Theresa N. Beauvais in 1954/Worcester Telegram.



Sparkling Party Punch

1 qt cranberry juice cocktail
1 (6oz) can frozen lemonade
2 qt ginger ale

Slowly add cranberry juice to frozen lemonade, stir until dissolved. Pour into punch bowl, add chilled ginger ale. Garnish with ice ring. Makes 14 to 16 punch cup servings.

Easy and sparkly.

Planned Events:

Mark your calendars!! We have set the dates for a couple of fun and exciting events:



The Mad Hatter's Tea Party:

When: Saturday May 21, 2011

Where: The Murdock Whitney House Museum

Time: 1-5pm

This is sure to be lots of fun - Wear your most outrageous hat and spend an afternoon with the Mad Hatter!!



Casino Royale:

When: Saturday September 10, 2011

Where: The Orange Whitney House
122 Pleasant St, Winchendon

Time: 7pm-Midnight

This has become a yearly favorite that we look forward to. Once again, Don O'Neil and Bob O'Keefe will lend out the Orange Whitney house and transform it for a night of food, fun and gambling. Don't miss it this year!!

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151 Front St, P.O.Box 279
Winchendon, MA 01475
Established 1930
Incorporated 1955

Telephone: 978-291-2142 (voice mail)

Web Site

www.winchendonhistoricalsociety.org

Mission Statement

The Winchendon Historical Society's mission is to preserve the history of the Town of Winchendon by collecting, archiving and maintaining our museum collections and archives with special emphasis on wooden toys made by the Morton E. Converse Company and Mason Parker Company and to preserve the Murdock-Whitney House as our 22 room mansion and home

Memberships

American Association for State and Local History
Institute for Non-Profit Development- MWCC
New England Museum Association
Gardner Chamber of Commerce

Membership Dues (due in May Annually)

Membership benefits include free admission to the Murdock-Whitney House Museum, invitations to special events, reduced fees to events and quarterly newsletter

Student (High School 16-18yrs): \$5.00
Individual: \$20.00
Individual (Senior Citizen 65+): \$15.00
Family (includes children under 18yrs): \$35
(children under 12 accompanied by an adult)

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of
September, October, April and May

Note: The Winchendon Historical Society, Inc. is a tax exempt organization 501 (3) C of the IRS code and all contributions are tax deductible

Send information to be published in the newsletter to:
Email: djoneiljr@gmail.com
Postal Mail: WHS Newsletter PO BOX 279,
Winchendon, MA 01475

Officers

President: Theresa Beauvais	978-297-2405
1st Vice President: Peggy Corbosiero	978-297-2415
2nd Vice President: Peter Newton	978-297-0730
Treasurer: Roger (Gerry) Hunt	978-297-1133
Secretary: Coral Grout	978-297-0239
Curator: Rita Saveall	978-297-0326

Board of Directors

All officers above

Ruth DeAmicis	Cell: 978-869-1472
	Work: 978-297-0050
Mary Fitzpatrick	978-297-0611
Don O'Neil	978-297-7247

Board of Directors meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at the Murdock-Whitney House.

Trustee of Trust Funds

Theresa Beauvais, Marc Brouillette, Roger Hunt

Committees

Hospitality: Elaine Gaspard
Membership: Theresa Beauvais, Marc Brouillette
Nominating: Lois Abare and Ruth DeAmicis
Newsletter & Website: Don O'Neil
Program Committee: Jean Olsen and Volunteers
Publicity: Ruth DeAmicis
Remembrance: Mary Fitzpatrick
Ways & Means: Donna Shaugnessey, Chairperson
Bookkeeper: Joyce Beauvais

Volunteer Staff

Curator: Rita Saveall
Archivist/Data Entry: Diane Legros, Betty Blodgett
Membership/Data Entry: Virginia Hardy
Tours & Research: Kerry Bettez

This newsletter is printed by Richard Creamer at
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**WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Winterfest	Saturday Dec. 4th	10:00-4:00	Old Murdock Senior Center
Victorian Christmas Tea	Sunday Dec. 12th	Seatings are at 2:00 and 3:30	Murdock Whitney House
Christmas Tour	Sunday Dec. 12th	11:00-5:00	Murdock Whitney House

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