

The Phillipston Tattler

Volume IV Issue I

Fall 2009

President's Message

This year -- 2009 -- was a great year for the Historical Society of Phillipston! Ten years ago in June 1999 a small group of concerned Phillipston residents met with the purpose of establishing a historical society for the town. Obtaining and preparing a physical location for the society and its museum has been the society's primary focus for these 10 years. Although at times it felt to me as though we were totally consumed with preparing the building, there was always a small group of members who found some time to work on collections and programs.

We held the grand opening for the museum in June and many folks from near and far attended. Amazement and pride was visible on so many of their faces!

Curator Jane French and many hard-working volunteers organized a fascinating exhibition of our collections and manned the museum throughout the summer. Phillipston is a very small town but as the collections demonstrate, we have had our share of veterans, successful businesses and accomplished residents. So much to be proud of.

Our energy, enthusiasm and programs have attracted new members. We expect our membership to grow even more as our focus moves more toward establishing new outreach programs with the schools and other organizations in town, and as we preserve, research and display more of the town's history.

The museum will open next spring with new displays and we will continue with improvements to the building. Building Committee Chair Gerhard Fandreyer is planning to install an electric heating system that will allow us to extend the museum's open season to include most of the spring and fall.



At the Grand Opening, Vice President Peter Richard surprised President Thelma McMahon and Curator Jane French with thoughtful bouquets and Gerhard Fandreyer with a manly handshake. He noted that Thelma's outstanding leadership, Jane's tireless efforts in assembling the museum's collections, and Gerhard's driving force behind the building's physical restoration enabled the society to succeed in its goal to open a museum.

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Send comments and/or letters to Historical Society of Phillipston, c/o Kay Deans, Editor,
35 Riley Switch Rd., Phillipston MA 01331

Memory Tree Ceremony

Once again the society is hosting the Memory Tree Ceremony. We hope you will submit your remembrances (See enclosed notice and form. Note due date December 1st.) and join us on December 6th.

The Memory Tree has been an important fundraiser for several years. Not only does the event provide a lighted tree to decorate our common during the Christmas season, but it provides a tree with a tender significance. The lights commemorate people and events that are important in each of our lives, so when we pass by it, those cherished memories come to mind.

After the tree is lighted, the program resumes at the church where Senator Steve Brewer and Representative Anne Gobi read the commemorated names and events that touch our hearts. The readings are followed by a seasonal program, this year it will be the music of Christine Moran, an accomplished young soprano whom some say has "the voice of an angel." This occasion of remembering beloved people and occasions seems to make the Christmas season more meaningful.

Podunk to Purgatory

Don't miss the November 17th program (7:00 PM in the library) "Podunk to Purgatory." Pete and Debbie Lincoln will be highlighting Phillipston in their lively, fun and educational slide show that chronicles their visits to the 351 towns in Massachusetts. The date of the program has been changed to Tuesday so we can all attend the special town meeting on Wednesday the 18th.

"Ice Out"

Also this winter we will begin a new and exciting fundraiser for the society, guessing when the ice will go out of Queen Lake. If you'd like to be part of the team of volunteers who plan and monitor the program, contact Tim Haley (978-249-2154), Emelda Haughton (978-249-3171), or Kay Deans (978-939-4025) You'll be hearing more about this in January, so start your research and think about which

John Pierre Custis pulls the 120 Club winning names.



Nature photographer Joe Superchi (R) of Athol entertained us with several of his photographs of birds.



Bakers Chocolate Collection



Kim Peltokangas shows society members their collection of Bakers Chocolate memorabilia.



time slots you want to pick!

225th Anniversary Celebrations

The society has a great opportunity to help plan events that will celebrate our town's 225th Anniversary in 2011. Not only is 2011 the town's anniversary, but 2010 is the Congregational Church of Phillipston's 225th anniversary. So the next two years should be exciting, with lots of chances to enjoy and celebrate living in Phillipston.

Thanks for Your Support

The society has accomplished a lot, but we couldn't do it without the participation of so many members and the support of all our friends. Thank you all! We look forward to another fun year and hope you will join us at our meetings and events.

Thelma McMahon, President