

Grafton Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2011

Mission

- To foster interest in Grafton's past.
- To collect and preserve Grafton artifacts and memorabilia.
- To provide research resources for students and future generations.

MUSEUM HOURS

Now Open
Every Sunday
Afternoon

(except holidays)
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One Grafton Common
Lower Level

Board of Directors

Officers

Linda Casey, President
Rachel Costello, Vice President
George Carroll, Treasurer
Joe Schilke, Curator

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Barbara Cleary
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John LaPoint
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Michael Rossi
Kerry Simmler



Society Leading Fundraising Effort For World War II Monument

The Grafton Historical Society has announced plans to raise private funding for an outdoor granite monument that would honor Grafton residents who served in World War II.

A subcommittee has been formed that includes World War Two veterans, members of the Grafton Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 1497, American Legion Delisle Goulet Post 92, and members of the Grafton Historical Society, the Grafton Historical Commission,

and the trustees of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorials.

The goal of the fundraising project is to have a World War Two monument for dedication on Veteran's Day—November 11th, 2011.

Private fundraising of approximately \$8,500 for the monument will be coordinated through the Historical Society's offices. Tax exempt contributions may be made directly to the Grafton Historical Society, One Grafton Common, Grafton 01519.

Grafton Historical Society President Linda Casey noted, "Members of the Historical Society's Research Committee have been compiling short biographies of those nineteen Grafton residents who died in action while serving in the military, and it was discussed that the town doesn't have an outdoor monument dedicated to our World War Two veterans. We think it's about time we corrected this oversight."

New Exhibit Highlights

150th Anniversary of Grafton's Role In The Civil War

Below are the two of the six new graphic panels being used for exhibit displays at the Historical Society's Museum. Thanks to member Ann Morgan for producing these beautiful and informative graphics with information provided by the Research Committee.

From the Worcester Daily Spy - April 22, 1861

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Grafton

In answer to a call of the Selectmen of the town, issued Saturday morning, the citizens of Grafton met in the Town Hall, in the afternoon to take into consideration the present exigencies of the county and to take such action as might be thought necessary. The meeting was called to order by Jonathan D. Wheeler, Esq., chairman of the selectmen. Reverend Mr. Sandlin offered a fervent prayer.

The meeting unanimously adopted a series of resolutions, of which the principal are as follows:

Resolved, that we, the citizens of the United States, residing in Grafton, Mass., do pledge to our country, in this hour of trial and need, our lives and our united and cordial support, and that we will do all in our power to defend our country against the dangers that threaten its existence.

Resolved, that we will encourage the organization of a company of volunteer militia in the town of Grafton, to be equipped, drilled, and ready for service at their country's call; and that it is incumbent on us to see that the families of those who may be called into service are supplied during their absence.

Resolved, that we recommend the holding of a legal town meeting as soon as may be, and that it is the sense of the meeting that the town should appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars, or so much as may be needed to defray the expenses of organizing such company of volunteer militia, and to render such aid to the families of those who enlist as may be needed.

Resolved, that a committee of seven now be raised to procure the enlistment and charter of such company of volunteer militia.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION

GRAFTON'S PATRIOTIC SEND-OFF

CIVIL WAR MUSTER

Company G of Grafton, Captain Forehand commanding, have adopted the name of the Anderson Guards. They assembled at the Town Hall Friday morning at eight o'clock, where they were addressed by Rev. Messrs. Burchard and Chick. The hall not being large enough, the company adjourned to the common, where they were addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Miller and Scandlin, and Colonel Charles Brigham.

The ladies presented the members with a portion of the fruits of their labors during the past week. The company were then escorted by the three fire companies of the town to New England Village, where they entertained with a collation at Quinsigamond Hotel. Thence they were escorted by the companies 1 and 3, Rescue and Blackstone of Grafton, together with the town officers, and a delegation of leading citizens of that town, in omnibuses and coaches, to the camp ground at Worcester. The citizens turned out en masse to witness the departure.

What's Happening at Your Historical Society

44th Antiques Show Another Big Success

The Friday before the Historical Society's 44th Annual Grafton Antiques Show on the Common the weather forecast was looking a bit "iffy." But as the 6:00 AM set up crew arrived on Saturday morning and as the day progressed it turned out to be one of the "uncommonly" prettiest days yet during the summer. The day was blessed with ideal weather, blue skies, great antique and approximately 550 enthusiastic visitors.

With the major effort, led by John Riemer, to produce a Antiques Show program booklet this year the show proved to be a big financial success. The show continues to be the major fundraiser for the year.

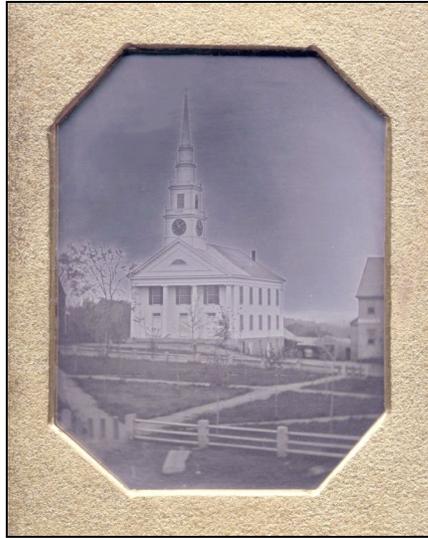
A big Historical Society THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who contributed to the show's success doing everything from baking, setting up and breaking down, to working the gates, counting money and making coffee. John Stephens co-chaired the event, along with Kerry Simmler.

New Historical Society Telephone Number Easy To Remember

508-839-0000

If you're one of those who easily loses your car keys or can't remember computer passwords, you're sure to like the new phone number of your Grafton Historical Society.

Earliest Known Photo of Grafton Common



The Historic Grafton Common and its use as a venue for community events and tourist festivities continues to be an important focus of the Grafton Historical Society's efforts. Researching the history of the Common is an ongoing work,

The Historical Society's photo collection includes several 19th century Daguerreotype photographs. The photo image reproduced above is a reverse scan of the Society's oldest Daguerreotype. This image is believed to be the earliest existing picture of the Grafton Common taken from the second floor of the Grafton Inn sometime shortly after the Common was first enclosed with granite posts and wooden fence rails in 1845.

What is a Daguerreotype?

Louis Daguerre (1789-1851) began the era of modern photography in France by applying a process invented by Joseph Niepce

A light sensitive coating was applied to a polished silver plate. The plate was then exposed in a camera designed and manufactured by Daguerre and then developed into a permanent but fragile image.

Mill Village Scale Models Featured At New Museum Exhibition

A major new exhibition on Grafton's Blackstone River Mill Village History premieres this Fall at the Historical Society museum.

Grafton's three communities of Farnumsville, Fisherville and Saundersville provided thousands of jobs in the textile industry for Polish, Irish and French Canadian immigrants. Now this history comes alive at the Historical Society museum highlighted by three scale models of the South Grafton mills developed as part of a preservation grant given to the Society by the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Linda Casey developed the Historical Society's grant proposal which resulted in an award of a \$3,000 grant to create an exhibition documenting the history of South Grafton's three mill villages.

Jean Deschenes, one of the Society's most active volunteers, has completed countless hours of precise work on three scale models of the Saundersville Mill, Farnumsville Mill, and the massive Fisherville Mill complex.

The models were first seen by Historical Society members at the annual meeting at Highfields Golf Club. Heritage Corridor Lead Ranger Chuck Arning was the guest speaker and was generous in his praise for efforts done to complete the scale models. Story boards and detailed histories of the three mills will complement the new exhibit which will be available for viewing at the Museum this Fall on Sunday Afternoons -2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.



Do You Have Interesting Pictures of Grafton?

We will scan them and
return them to you .
Call (508) 839-0000