

Tewksbury Historical Society

Newsletter

P.O. Box 522
Tewksbury, Ma. 01876

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EMAIL: tewksburyhistoricalsociety@msn.com

www.tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org (website)

www.tewksburyhistoricalsociety.com (website)

2012 Membership Drive

Renew your Membership ASAP!

Jan. 1 - March 30, 2012

Your membership is very important to support our operating expenses. Archive rental expenses, newsletters and postage, archive material, historical events such as Charter Day and Membership Meetings are all member expenses. This year we are trying to raise money for Past Perfect Software and for the purchase of some computers so our Archive Committee and our Society can be more useful to our membership. Please fill out the membership sheet at back of this newsletter and return it to our Post Office Box. Thank you in advance for renewing your annual membership until Dec. 2012.

2012: Historical Events

"Samuel Hunt's Clark Road"

Hosted by Kim Zunino

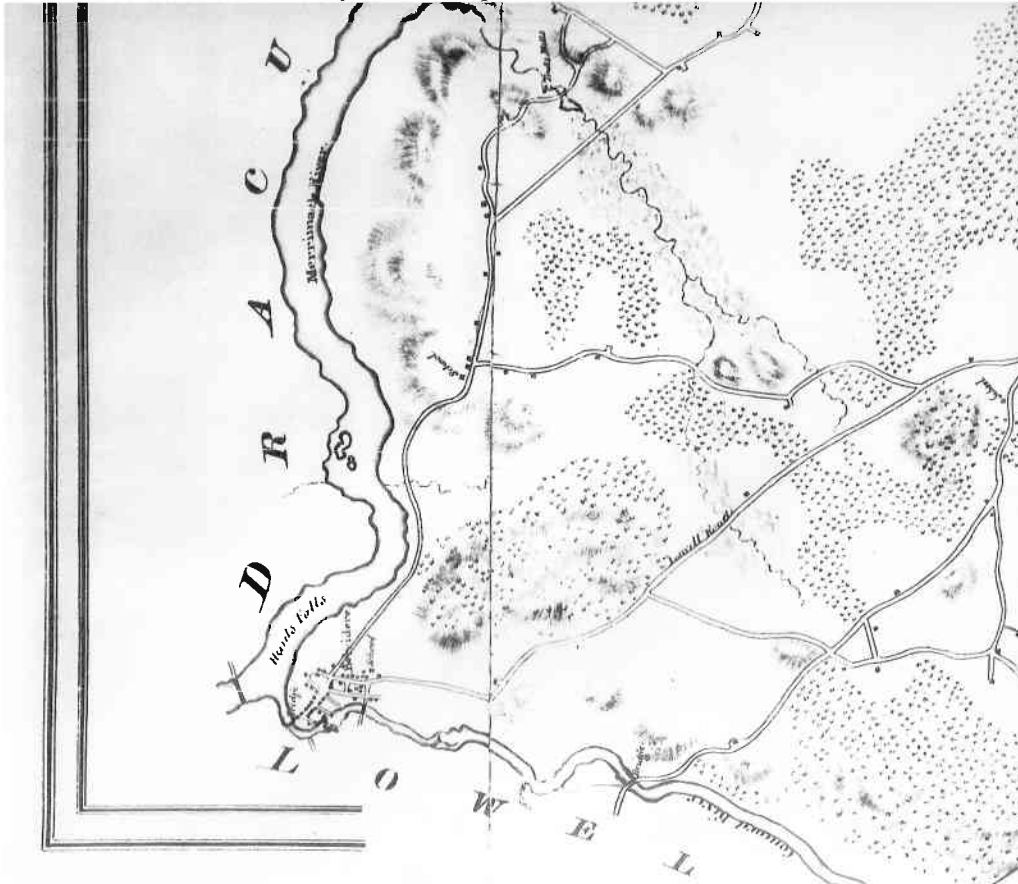
Saturday - Jan. 28, 2012

1:30pm

Tewksbury Library

Samuel Hunt lived in a Block House behind the Clark Homestead on Clark Road in what used to be Tewksbury and is today Lowell. Lowell annexed four parts of Tewksbury starting on March 24, 1834. The second part left on June 5, 1874, the third part left on May 17, 1888, and finally Samuel Hunt's Clark Road area left on April 30, 1906. Kim Zunino, a member of our Board of Directors and an employee of the Lowell Historic Board will explain the historic area of Clark Road. Tewksbury left behind cemeteries, schools, bridges, and fire department buildings. The first part annexed can be seen on the 1831 map of Tewksbury (see below). It was called Belvidere Village and was located near the bridge to the new city of Lowell. Lowell Memorial Auditorium is located today in this Belvidere Village of Tewksbury. The population center was not in the center

of Tewksbury but it was located at Concord Point where the Merrimack and Concord Rivers come together. Patten's History recalls how people from Belvidere Village would come in carts and wagons to the center of Tewksbury and have lunch with a drink or two at the Brown Tavern. They then would walk across the common to the first Town Hall and create a ruckus, voting themselves out of Tewksbury. (See Tewksbury History Facts in the Newsletter for more history on this topic.)



(Above) Note the development of Belvidere Village (lower left) in the old Wamesit Territory in the 1831 Map of Tewksbury.

Coming Historical Events:

New Members Meeting

Tom King will talk on the research he has done on two Society gravestones. The meeting will also feature several other speakers on Tewksbury's Bunker Hill Militia Company and a Tewksbury Civil War story. The date in March and the place will be announced later.

Spring Fundraiser for the Building and Acquisition Fund

**"Henry David Thoreau visits Tewksbury
Again!"**

**Saturday, May 19, 2012
Tewksbury Senior Center
7:00pm**



Henry David Thoreau will be visiting Tewksbury on May 19, 2012 starting at 7:00pm at the Tewksbury Senior Center. Thoreau wrote his first book, "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers" and it was published in 1849. Louisa May Alcott said, "The book is purely American, fragrant with the life of New England woods and streams and could have been written nowhere else." Richard Smith will bring to life the character of Thoreau who went down past Tewksbury during his eight days on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers of old Tewksbury. This presentation is supported by the MCC and the Tewksbury Cultural Council.



Other Society News: *Here is a reply to Doug Sear's email to Ken Mouser, Society Board Members and local media outlets regarding the Powwow Oak Preservation Project:*

I as much as anybody, support the Pow-Wow Oak Project and want to see it preserved for years to come. It is in this spirit that the Historical Society and I agreed to work with George [Koumantzelis] to watch over the money that was raised for said project, and I, as the treasurer have done that and will continue to do so until all monies have been expended for work that was outlined in an earlier agreement. As such, I have a morale obligation to all those individuals that donated money, to ensure that the money is spent for said cause. As a 501c-3 organization, people can write off their donation on their tax return, and this includes money raised from a Benefit Concert. No one is running away with the money, it is all there in the bank, in a separate Pow-Wow Oak

fund, awaiting [survey and marking] expenses associated with the Pow-Wow Oak tree. Secondly, some of the \$700.00 that Mr. Koumantzelis refers to, has already been expended for expenses that he himself had incurred, so there isn't \$700.00 left anyway. Thirdly, since Mr. Koumantzelis indicated to me that the approximate cost for the required work would be around \$3,000.00, I have no intention of releasing monies that would cause the project to come up short. Since Mr. Koumantzelis provided no budget of any kind for this project, my hands are tied as far as releasing any of the monies until I see either a budget or some invoices, and that includes the remainder of the \$700.00 that Mr. Koumantzelis wants back. So Doug, I hope you see where I'm coming from, I have an obligation to the donors of the money and that includes the [Benefit] Concert money. By the way Doug, I think I'm handling this small bank account just fine, Thank you very much. Ken Mouser - Treasurer, Tewksbury Historical Society

New Collection Policy for Archive Committee: The Board of Directors has voted to adopt a new collection policy for photographs and artifacts that are collected. If you have something to donate, contact out Archive Committee through our email address, tewksburyhistoricalsociety@MSN.com or call Sandra Mouser our Corresponding Secretary and she will alert an Archive Committee member. Members of the Archive Committee are Louise Hunt and Bill Fullerton, co-chairpersons. Also Joyce Burns and David Marcus. The Photographic Archives are held in the Foster Cabinet at the Town Library. The Local History Room is staffed every Tuesday from 3:30-5:30pm and people are welcome who need help with researching Tewksbury history. Members and Board members who have donations given to them must contact the Archive Committee immediately for collection.

The Civil War Sesquicentennial is HERE: As another Special Event in our remembrance of these four years of our American History, the Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston will be embarking on its 30th Annual Battlefield Tour of great American Historical Sites. May 17-20, 2012 to Manassas #1 and #2 and many other sites in that area. The group will stay at the Quality Inn Lodge for 3 nights with free Hot Continental breakfasts. 2 Boxed lunches and 2 evening meals, a motor coach, all fees for admissions, guide fees and driver gratuities. A double room costs \$595 or \$675 for single room occupancy. A deposit of \$50.00 will hold a place on the motor coach. Check to The CWRT of Greater Boston to David L. Smith, 3 Waverly Oaks Road #202, and Waltham, MA 02452 - cwrtnass@comcast.net or call 781-647-3332. [This tour has no relation or agreements with the Tewksbury Historical Society and is provide to our members as a courtesy. We advise you to call the phone number as soon as possible to make arrangements.]

2011 MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Alice Golen gave a Memorial Donation for

M. Phyllis White

An anonymous person gave a Memorial Donation for

Tish McGinn and Barbara Burke

Beverly Bennett gave a Memorial Donation for

M. Phyllis White

Dan Armstrong gave a Memorial Donation for

Theresa Armstrong to celebrate her life.

David Garside gave a Memorial Donation for his parents

David and Marion

David Marcus gave a Memorial donation for

M. Phyllis White

David Marcus gave a Memorial Donations for

John Ferreira

Duncan Hazel gave a Memorial Donation in memory of

Evelyn Hazel's passing on Nov. 22, 2008

John Dunlevy gave a Memorial Donation for

William and Barry Dunlevy

Thomas & Margaret Lambert gave a Memorial Donation for

John Ferreira

Vito Ivas gave a Memorial Donation for

Jonathan

2011 Annual Fund Drive

Benefactors

Daniel Armstrong - David E. Marcus

Patrons

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Burgess - Mary Gaffney

Mark and Leisa Ginsburg - Duncan Hazel

Contributors

Beverly Bennett - Joseph and Sandra DeLucia - John Denehy

John Deputat - William J Fullerton - David Garside Jr

Vito Ivas - Eileen McDonagh

Supporters

Mary and Ralph Bennett - Joyce Burns - Joan Dunlevy

Philip and Wanda Gay - Cynthia Mulno - Delbert Nash

Mona Roberts - Paul and Susan Young

Obituary Notices

By David E. Marcus

M. Phyllis White, a founding member of the Historical Society passed away on Nov. 1, 2011. She was a member of the Board of Directors, a generous donor to our Annual Fund Drive, and a donor of many artifacts to the Society. She was very

proud of her historic house at 107 Pleasant Street. I will remember Phyllis mostly for her laugh, her great sense of humor and for her being one of the best dancers that I have ever met! I promised to take her to a dance several years ago at the Congregational Church. I drove down to Tewksbury and arrived at the Phyllis's house just in time to hitch a ride to the church. Phyllis's daughter Sandra Mouser was in the front seat with her husband Ken driving. Phyllis was in the back seat of her Cadillac so I jumped in the back seat only to find out that Phyllis had two dates for the dance - myself and an 88 year-old "other boy friend of hers." Phyllis proceeded to dance just about every dance with her two boy friends. She finally tired when she and I danced to the Silvertones version of the "Wood Chucker's Ball." The Society will miss her volunteer spirit and her dancing panache.

John Ferreira was a steadfast member of the Society. He loved Wamesit and he loved his old cars. He was the proud owner of Mrs. Fairgrieve's 1922, 2 door Ford Model T Coupe. The car has always resided in Tewksbury. John's good friend Walter Russo described the car as having suicide doors that opened from the front and a windshield that open a few inches to allow for venting. John and Dave Hunt participated in the 2005 Annual Meeting. They organized an antique car show that was the only outdoor meeting we ever had. John also helped me with a presentation on Wamesit at a different Annual Meeting. We spent many fun hours driving around Tewksbury and Lowell talking about the good olde days of his youth. He donated pictures of Clark Road farms. He donated milk bottles, old egg farming equipment and many pictures that were in an exhibit we did at the Tewksbury Library. He was a fixture in the back row of Society Membership Meetings. He never failed to speak up when he saw or heard something said that was not historically accurate. His presence in the Society will be sorely missed. His friendship will be missed even more.

Tewksbury History Facts:

Samuel Hunt's Wamesit Parish

Samuel Hunt moved to olde Billericay and had some land behind the Clark Homestead on Clark Road. He also was a veteran of King Philip's War and was given land in the old Wamesit Territory. This territory was given to the Wamesits in 1664 and extinguished in 1686. Hunt Falls is an area in the Merrimack River not far from where today's Route 38 crosses the Merrimack River and ends on Route 110. The river becomes shallow over the falls and this is an area that Native American could wade into the river, using nets and spears to fish for dinner. Other tribes would wander into the area for the summer and would congregate along the shores of the Merrimack River. It was almost like Hampton Beach on a summer day. After King Philip's War, the Wamesit and Pawtucket Tribes left the area for Canada, upstate New York and the Pennacook area in what is today New Hampshire. By the time Hunt was trying to incorporate "Wamesit Parish" in 1725, all the Native Americans had left the area. The Wamesit area became Belvidere Village. Belvidere Village of Tewksbury grew in population after a bridge was voted at the 1800 Tewksbury Town Meeting.

Officers:

President - David E. Marcus
Vice President - Rita O'Brien Dee
Treasurer - Kenneth Mouser
Recording Secretary - M. Eileen McDonagh
Corresponding Secretary - Sandra Mouser

Executive Board:

J.W. Buckley, Joyce Burns, Barbara Chandler, Karen Favreau, William J. Fullerton,
Duncan Hazel, Robert Hunter, Erin Sheehy, Eugene Winter, and Kim Zunino

David E. Marcus writes the newsletter

Detach this section and return to the Society

2012 Membership Application

- Junior Membership \$ 5.00
- Individual Membership \$ 15.00
- Dual Membership (Spouse/Partner) \$ 25.00
- Senior (Age 65+) Membership \$ 10.00
- Life Membership \$ 500.00
- Business or Corporate Membership \$ 100.00

Please return this with your check to: Tewksbury Historical Society, PO Box 522,
Tewksbury, MA 01876-0522.

Questions? Contact: Sandra Mouser: 978-851-4966

or

E-Mail: tewksburyhistoricalsociety@msn.com

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- RENEWAL
- NEW

Do you want your newsletters sent electronically?

- Yes
- No