

Society Updates

Opening on the Executive Board

The Executive Board is looking for a Society member to take over the role of Recording Secretary starting immediately. Responsibilities include taking notes during the Executive Board meetings (held once a month) and the Annual Meeting (April) and typing them up for review. It is not an all consuming position but the Board really needs one individual to take over the job. **Please consider volunteering a few hours a month to keeping the Society up and running.** If interested, contact Amy Dugas at 508-867-5428 or Bill Jankins at 508-867-3673.

Newsletter Production

Our previous Recording Secretary also handled the production of the Society's newsletter. The Board would like to see one or two individuals take over newsletter production so that we could once again have a publication available to the membership on a quarterly basis. The newsletter does not have to be an extensive document but just something that keeps everyone updated on local events and activities. The Board also hopes that members may be interested in submitting small articles on local history, poems, stories etc..that would make the newsletter not only informative but entertaining. This position may only require attending one Executive Board meeting every quarter prior to the publication of the newsletter so that the Board could review and comment on the content. A President's message would also be provided from either Bill Jankins or myself. Right now the newsletter will be produced by the Board but we are all busy and would love to have someone volunteer to take it over. Please consider assisting the Board on this matter. If interested you can contact Bill Jankins or Amy Dugas (numbers above).

Museum

- The museum has had a steady flow of visitors over the summer. On August 14th, we had about 65 descendants of the Wolcott family visit the museum. They were on a bus tour learning about their family history.
- A rotating photo exhibit using images from the Quaboag Museum and other museums within the Plantation has been ongoing at the West Brookfield Public Library. It started in January with images from West Brookfield. In April, Brookfield was highlighted and in June it changed to North and East Brookfield. During the first week of October, the final display will be hung using images from Warren and New Braintree. The exhibits have generated a great deal of interest and have been an excellent way to bring the rich history of our area to light. Many thanks to those individuals who loaned me photos from their collection.
- The museum has an excellent selection of books and historic material for sale. Orders can also be placed at the museum for 350th clothing, coins and crocks.



Plantation News from the Warren Herald-August 1895

West Brookfield

A large company of people gave a fish fry at Wickaboag Pond Monday afternoon.

Burglars were successful in getting into G.A. Bailey's jewelry store and carried away some articles.

West Warren

Someone broke into Eli Merritt's barn early Tuesday morning and helped themselves to all the milk they could obtain from his cow.

Warren

The Committee of the Warren Bicycle Club have nearly completed the arrangements for the road race on the 24th. Entry blanks have been sent out to the wheelmen in the towns eligible. The prizes have been selected and are on exhibition at D.E. Graves' Jewelry Store. **First Prize: diamond ring; Second Prize: banquet lamp; Third Prize: Bridgeport Search Light.**

Brookfield

There is to be a milk house built at the depot so that the milk will be sheltered from sun and rain.

The Brookfield Brass Band held its third concert and dance Wednesday night in the town hall.

Goodrich's Wagon show was here Tuesday and it was a good show for the money. One of the features was walking the loose wire which was done very well. The tent was crowded in the evening. It went from here to Warren.

North Brookfield

John Downey, the oldest man in town, is still exceedingly vigorous at 95. He walked to church, several miles Sunday.

The thieves who blew open the post office safe early Thursday morning secured over \$1000 worth of stamps. Some think they escaped on bicycles as tracks were found in the middle of the road.

East Brookfield

Mr. Chas B. Blair and family are camping for several weeks at Camp L.B.H.B.E., Lake Lashaway, East Brookfield, MA. There are people there from the Brookfields and Spencer. There are five camps in all which are situated on a bluff on the borders of the lake, the view from which is very fine. The size of the settlement combined with the natural beauties of the surroundings and the novelty of the scene attracts many visitors from all around. Nearly all the tents have floors and some are handsomely furnished with every convenience. It is an ideal summer resort, the boating, bathing and fishing being excellent.

New Braintree

The Census of 1895 recorded 542 residents of New Braintree. North Brookfield had the largest population of all Plantation towns with 4,635 residents.





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Then & Now

I came across this little story while perusing through the books from our museum collection. With the Plantation celebrating our 350th, families reuniting after generations apart, and communities reflecting on their rich history, it seemed only appropriate to include it in the newsletter.

The happiness of any happening is intensified by sharing. How often, in the presence of some rare beauty of sound or sight, we say, “If only this or that friend were here--!” And we know that our enjoyment is increased by this sense of potential partnership with someone who may be, at the moment, miles across land or sea away from us.

And is it too great a tax on the imagination to be aware of a sense of sharing some great or small experience with ones ancestors? For all we know, the imprint of long ago emotion has been registered, ineffaceably, on some delicate, invisible medium in our surroundings, and only our habitual absorption in the humdrum present renders us oblivious to what might be termed re-lived experience.

Early one August morning I stood in an old doorway, rejoicing in the cool serenity of the still untouched day, watching a wheeling bird cut an arc in the cloudless blue sky, following the departure of a herd of Jerseys taking their leisurely way to pasture, breathing the fragrance of ripening apples. Every sense was alert, and something deeper than my senses was aware of all the manifestations of country life about me, and of the great simplicity and peace of the time and place. With it all, there came unmistakably the sure consciousness of sharing, the belief that in some other moment of time, these emotions in my heart had been experienced, that they had been waiting for me here. The grandmother whose home this was for many years, even so might her spirit have been moved, in this identical spot, long ago. And so today my response to the enchantment of this miraculous moment became part of hers. Her touch had been on this experience, just as surely as on the thin silver spoons and the tea set that I inherited. This moment was a bequest.

Fanciful? Unquestionably. But why deny that there may be miracles in the immeasurable distances of that elusive mystery we call time: miracles worthy to match the space-miracles of this frenzied age in which we live?

From: New England Miniatures, by Grace Holbrook Blood, 1955



A Note from the Board

How quickly the months go ---. It is hard to believe we are in the latter half of August already. This has been such an eventful year; one that all the residents and visiting Quaboag Plantation descendants will remember with pride and a sense of accomplishment. --- And the best is yet to come !!

This letter is sent as a brief reminder of what is planned for mid- September. ----

- **The 350th Anniversary celebration begins Friday, September 17th** with a social hour at the Salem Cross Inn at 4P.; to be followed by dinner at 6:15 P. More than 100 people have made reservations to attend. 70 descendants of the original settlers are expected from cities and towns across the country.
- **On Saturday, a special Proclamation of Reconciliation will be signed** by the original descendants and presented to the members of the Pokanoket tribe at Saturday's special ceremonies on Foster Hill, the site of the 1675 siege.

Later in the day, planned activities will continue on the West Brookfield Common, with a vocal concert from 3 P. -- 4 P., a presentation of Mary Rowlandson's capture experience in New Braintree from 4 P. -- 5 P., followed by a BBQ chicken supper, 5 P. -- 6 P. Starting at 6 P.-- 10 P. there will be a number of bands providing music for dancing (including square dancing!). Other food vendors will also be offering food and beverages throughout the evening.

- **A Sunday morning ecumenical service is planned at 9 A. on Foster Hill**, at historic Whitfield Rock. Parking areas have been arranged for, making attendance at the service less problematic for drivers. The West Brookfield Congregational Church will be providing coffee and pastries after the morning service.

The "piece de resistance" of the weekend -- the celebratory parade, from the West Brookfield Elementary school, along Route 9, to the junction of Route 67 & 9, by Wickaboag Lake starts at (TIME ??? -- 11 A.?? I could not find it in the papers I saved !). 161 units, with 25 marching bands, are expected to participate. Members of the Quaboag Historical Society are invited and urged to march in the parade along with the descendants of the Quaboag Plantation's first settlers.

If you would like to join in this memorable occasion, please call Bill Jenkins @ 508-867-3673.

This has been a truly remarkable year. A time to be remembered with joy and gratitude -- both for the events and for the wonderful people who made it all happen. Do join with your friends and neighbors from the six Plantation communities, in marking this unforgettable celebration.



Fall 2010



Quaboag Historical Society

President's Message

What a busy year we have had so far. There have been many great activities every month to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Quaboag Plantation. There has been something **for everyone whether it was the Grand Ball, Wheeler's Surprise reenactment, an old fashioned baseball game, the garden tour, the Triathlon, the Air National Guard Band concert, a historic tour of the Quaboag River, or a historic bus tour of Warren.** Every town has hosted an event or two (or three) and it has really made for a fun and exciting year. All these events took a great deal of planning and I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who donated their time and energy to making them a success. The next few months will be filled with even more activities so keep updated by periodically checking the 350th website, www.quaboag350.com.

As Co-President of the Society, I am constantly thinking of ways to strengthen the Society. At this time, we are losing membership. Many of our members are older now and unable to volunteer for the Society in the ways that they had in the past. As a group, we need to attract new members. New members mean new ideas and energy which is critical if the Society is going to be around for another hundred years. Next year, I hope to organize a membership drive to see whether we can generate renewed interest. I would also like to host a membership appreciation day so that the Society can give something back to our members.

The Society, however, also needs something from the membership to keep us moving forward. We need more assistance and input from everyone. One way to help would be to volunteer to walk in the 350th parade as a representative of the Society. Another would be to help with the newsletter. Our Board is also in need of a Recording Secretary. I would love to see a **small group of people get together to assist me with organizing and planning next year's membership activities** that I mentioned earlier. Have you seen someone give a talk that was particularly interesting? Let us know and we could host a guest speaker series at the museum. The museum is always in need of docents and I would greatly appreciate some additional volunteers. I want to have a more active Society but I am only one person and I cannot do it by myself. So, I hope that after the 350th activities are behind us, the membership will feel a renewed interest in our history and in the Society. We need the help of the membership to keep the Society going. If you have any ideas or would like to help out in any way, please contact Amy Dugas at 508-867-5428.

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