



Woburn Historical Society The Lamplighter

Volume 4, Issue 1

July - September 2010

A Letter from the President

by Rosa DiTucci

It's the half-way point in my term and I can't believe it has flown by so quickly. As I look out the window of our office at the Burdett Mansion, I reflect on the whirlwind changes at the Society since I took office last March. A permanent home and record-topping attendances at our programs are just two of the most exciting happenings. Someone said to me recently, "You sure picked a good year to be president," and I agree that I am very lucky!



Our success is built on everyone and everything that came before. None of it would be possible without the many people who have pitched in to help us over the past four years. Whether they are the public face of the Society on the stage, volunteers working the "back of the house" or our members and financial sponsors, the Society would be a shadow of itself without them.

Sometimes our programs appear seamless and we forget how much they entail. Each program can take months of work to complete and we are fortunate to have so many people with different skills who contribute. Some programs require not only an investment of time, but they are costly to produce. So, to those who have helped us in ways both big and small, I send my sincere and heartfelt gratitude. I appreciate everything you do to make our Society interesting, fun and educational.

Our logo says it all. We are a *Society of Friends* and without each other, we can't succeed. So I urge you to join us and be part of our story. If you are not yet a member, please consider filling out the membership application on the back page or on our website where we are now able to accept secure credit card payments. And if you're already a member, thank you once again for your support.

I look forward to the next six months. Given our history, anything can and might just happen!

"Five Former Mayors ~ Reflections from the Corner Office"

A Plasma Films Production

Monday ~ October 11, 2010

Flaherty Auditorium, Woburn Memorial High School
88 Montvale Avenue, Woburn MA
7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)



(L to R) Kathy Lucero interviews former Mayors John F. Gilgun Jr., John C. Curran, John W. Rabbitt, Thomas L. McLaughlin and Robert M. Dever.

Photo courtesy of Brian Ouellette, Plasma Films

Five Former Mayors Film - continued on page 7

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Please visit our website at www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com

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Interested in knowing more about the
Friends of the Woburn Public Library?

Information is available at
[www.woburnpubliclibrary.org/
 about-the-library/friends-of-the-library](http://www.woburnpubliclibrary.org/about-the-library/friends-of-the-library)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday ~ October 11
***“Five Former Mayors ~
 Reflections from the Corner Office”***

A Plasma Film
7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)
 Flaherty Auditorium
 Woburn Memorial High School
 88 Montvale Avenue, Woburn MA

Monday ~ November 8
***Veteran’s Oral History Project
 “Chronicles of War - Korea”***

A Plasma Film
7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)
 Flaherty Auditorium
 Woburn Memorial High School
 88 Montvale Avenue, Woburn MA

Saturday ~ December 4
Woburn Holiday Faire

10:00 am to 2:00 pm
 Woburn Mall
 300 Mishawum Road
 Woburn MA



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE !

The screenshot shows the website interface with a navigation menu on the left containing links for Home, Coming Events, Past Programs, Our Projects, Veterans Oral History Project, About Us, Contact Us, How to Find Us, and Links. A search bar is located below the menu. A section titled 'Want to Become a Member?' includes a dropdown menu for membership types (Individual Membership \$25.00) and an 'Add to Cart' button. The main content area features a welcome message, a notice about the website's construction, and details for the next event: 'FIVE FORMER MAYORS - Reflections From the Corner Office' on Monday, October 11th, 2010. It also includes a notice that a cemetery tour has been postponed until Spring 2011. At the bottom, there is a small image of a building.

Our new and improved website is now available for you to keep up-to-date with all our latest news.

And, we are now able to accept New and Renewal memberships on-line with a credit card payment!

Please feel free to browse the site (www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com) and let us know what you think by sending us an email at Info@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com.

We’re still under construction so we appreciate your feedback!

Upcoming Programs

DID YOU KNOW that 50 years has gone by since John Gilgun was Mayor of Woburn? Come listen to five former mayors discuss decisions they made during their administration in the film entitled "*Five Former Mayors: Reflections from the Corner Office*" at our **Monday, October 11th** program.

DID YOU KNOW that 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War or that 713 Woburn men and women served in the conflict? On **Monday, November 8th**, join us to commemorate Woburn's contributions to the Korean War, referred to as "the forgotten war", in a Plasma Film production, "*Chronicles of War - Korea*", produced and edited by Kathy Lucero and Brian Ouellette.

DID YOU KNOW that Christmas is just two and a half short months away? You can purchase a gift for your favorite Woburnite at the *Woburn Holiday Faire* on **Saturday, December 4th**, where local authors, photographers and artists will display their work. And you can pick up a DVD or other historical items at the Society's table at the Woburn Mall from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Veteran's Oral History Project "Chronicles of War ~ Korea"

On **Monday, November 8th**, the Society will mark the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War with its latest film in the Veteran's Oral History Series, "*Chronicles of War ~ Korea*". The program will tell the experiences of three Korean War Veterans from Woburn; Fred Brown, Robert Cannon and Angelo Piazza.

Produced by Brian Ouellette of Plasma Films with interviews conducted by Kathy Lucero, the film depicts the first-hand accounts of the Korean conflict, oftentimes referred to as the "forgotten war". Through the efforts of programs such as this, Woburn will not forget its 713 sons and daughters who served during the Korean War, especially the seven who never returned.

The program will be held at Flaherty Auditorium at the Woburn Memorial High School at 7:00 pm with doors opening at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the program.

The featured veterans will be on hand after the program to meet the audience.



Cpl. Fred C. Brown, Jr.
1st Marine Division



Cpl. Robert F. Cannon
1st Marine Division



Cpl. Angelo J. Piazza
1st Marine Division

Calvary Cemetery Tour and the Missing Military Markers

The Calvary Cemetery Tour, which was scheduled for October 3, 2010, has been rescheduled for the Spring of 2011.

While conducting research this past July for the cemetery tour, it was noticed by Kathy Lucero that several World War I veterans did not have military markers of any kind along with veterans from the Civil and Spanish American Wars. Upon further research, she discovered in a Daily Times article from October of 1940 that between 75 and 80 bronze military markers had been stolen and it was assumed they had been used for scrap metal.

With the assistance of Bill Sweeney, a member of the Historical Society, a list is being put together of veterans who need their military marker replaced. The list will be presented to Veterans Agent Larry Guiseppa and the Veterans Council in order that these foot markers, or at least flag holders, be replaced by the Spring of 2011.

Remembering a Forgotten Hero Private Charles Wendell Rupp



Thanks to the efforts of our own Kathy Lucero, Private Charles Wendell Rupp, who was born in North Woburn in 1895 and killed in action on May 27, 1918 while in France in World War I, will finally get the honors he deserves. While researching the Society's film, *Woburn: "Over There" – World War I*, Kathy discovered that even though Private Rupp was killed simultaneously with another Woburn boy, Charles Lynch of Stoddard Street, in the Battle of Cantigny in Northern France, he did not have a memorial.

Lynch and Rupp were members of Co. F., 101st Infantry and along with Private Sweeney of Lawrence, MA, were assigned to a raiding party in 'no man's land', the dangerous territory between two enemy entrenchments. A barrage of grenades and artillery forced them to seek shelter in a crude dugout. A German artillery shell made a direct hit on their shelter, killing all three men instantly. When word reached their comrades, a detachment of twelve Woburn boys volunteered to enter 'no man's land' to bring back the bodies. The twelve boys held a small graveside service for them near where they were killed.

Private Rupp was born on August 15, 1895 to William and Alice Rupp of 96 Pleasant Street in Woburn, and was the oldest of eight children. He enlisted in 1917 while he was working at Merrimac Chemical in North Woburn. When he was killed at the age of 23, he had been assigned to Company F Headquarters as a messenger, carrying information to and from the front lines both day and night. Private Rupp's body was brought back to Woburn from France in July of 1921 and re-interred at Woodbrook Cemetery in the Soldier's Lot.

Kathy made it her mission to see that this young man's bravery was not forgotten. Working with Woburn Veterans Agent Larry Guiseppe, a motion was made before the City Council on September 21, 2010 to establish a memorial to Private Charles Wendell Rupp. The motion passed unanimously. The new memorial will be located as close as possible to Lynch Park at Horn Pond, the site dedicated to the young South End boy, Charles Lynch, who died with him. It is fitting that the two should be memorialized together.

If anyone has any information on surviving members of Private Charles Wendell Rupp's family, please contact Kathy Lucero at 781-933-5002. We will let you know when the memorial is ready to be dedicated.

Past Programs

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Burdett Open House

In spite of the heat, almost 200 people visited the Burdett Mansion on July 24th for an Open House and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was the Society's way of saying "thank you" to our sponsors and dues-paying members for their continued support throughout the year.

The Flaherty family, which donated the use of the mansion as our headquarters, was also on hand to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Afterwards, everyone was treated to lunch and dessert. The day was a lot of fun for everyone and gave our members an opportunity to see our new home.



Society President Rosa DiTucci cuts the ribbon with
Kathy and John Flaherty

Photo courtesy of Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo



Burdett House circa 1880

Also there to share in the festivities were city officials, including Michael Raymond, Ward 6 Alderman and Mark Gaffney, Ward 3 Alderman. Mark Gaffney also donated the beautiful signs that adorn the front of our building.

Thanks also go out to George and Ellen Hamilton for donating the beautiful floral centerpiece, Steve's Glass Repair for a custom glass table top protector, and to Gene and Lynn Vogt for the marble-top hall table.

Past Programs

All Aboard for a Bus Load of Fun! Second Trolley Tour 2010

We came back from summer vacation on **September 12th** with the Society's Second Trolley Tour. It was a smash success again this year and each trolley was filled to capacity. The tours focused on the two Historic Districts in North Woburn and included three stops where passengers toured the interiors of these beautiful and historic properties, including the Society's new headquarters at the Burdett Mansion, Dr. Paul Lennon's home (formerly the Beggs House), and the Eunice Thompson Memorial Library on Elm Street.

Entertaining and knowledgeable tour guides (Bill Callahan, Sue Ellen Holland, Kathy Lucero and John McElhiney) presented passengers with a



Clare Hurley, portraying the maid, Delia Hynes, sported a convincing Irish brogue at the Burdett House

Photo courtesy of Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo

myriad of interesting and historical information as did period-costumed actors Clare Hurley at the Burdett Mansion, Lois Surette at the Beggs House, Robin Longedyke at the Thompson Library, and Darlene Wigton at the Count Rumford House. Dan Maher of the Daniel Maher Stained Glass Studio in Somerville spoke to the passengers about the impressive and stunning stained glass windows in the Beggs and Burdett Houses.

The tours were sponsored by generous donations from John and Kathy

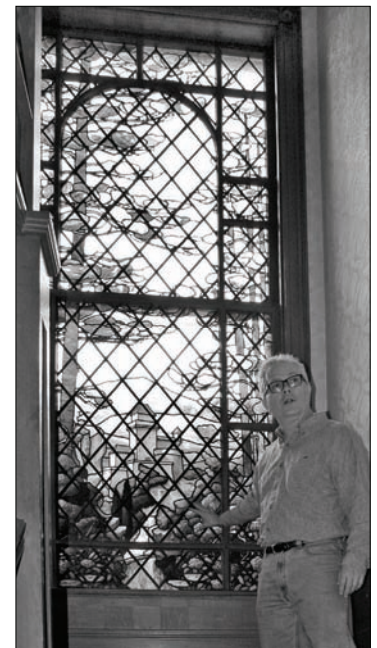
Flaherty, Lennon Insurance Company and the Woburn Historical District Commission.

Many thanks go out to all the volunteers that made this event such a success. And special thanks go to Dr. Paul Lennon, who graciously welcomed us into his home at the Beggs House, Malvy's Florist for the beautiful floral centerpiece, the Woburn Public Library, the Cemetery Commission, the DPW, the Thompson Library Trustees and the Woburn Police Department for their invaluable assistance.



Passengers pose while waiting to board the Trolley

Photo courtesy of ellen hamilton photography



Daniel Maher, stained glass expert, at the William Beggs House

Photo courtesy of Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo



Darlene Wigton recounts a story of Benjamin Thompson's espionage using invisible ink

Photo courtesy of ellen hamilton photography



Lois Surette greets visitors to the William Beggs House

Photo courtesy of Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo



It's a trolley full of happy passengers enjoying the tour!

Photo courtesy of ellen hamilton photography



Robin Longedyke depicts Eunice Thompson

Photo courtesy of Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo

An Interview with ... Gerry Kehoe on Woburn's Conservation Areas

by Clare L. Hurley



Gerry Kehoe is a life-long resident of Woburn. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Woburn Historical Society, a founder and President of Woburn Residents' Environmental Network (WREN), a semi-professional photographer, an avid naturalist, a lecturer and trail guide on the history and wildlife of Woburn's conservation areas, and a volunteer for several Middlesex County 4H Programs. She graduated from Woburn High School in 1967 and has taken courses in biology and photography at the then Lowell State College (now University of Lowell). She has taught courses in photography in the Woburn and Medford adult education programs and continues to give private lessons. She lives with her husband David and their two grown daughters in David's ancestral home near Horn Pond. From there she and her family have easy access to hiking the trails, taking photographs, and savoring the splendor of the sunsets.

Woburn's conservation areas include Horn Pond, Shaker Glen, Rag Rock, and Cranberry Bog and Battle Road woodlands. More information can be found at <http://www.ci.woburn.ma.us/FAQ.ASPx?QID=91>.

Q. How did you become interested in the history and wildlife of Horn Pond?

A. As a newlywed in early 1973, I moved into my husband's family home adjacent to Horn Pond. Through stories my husband and his family related to me, along with my own research and observations, I've learned quite a bit about the history of the area. I began giving nature walks around the pond when my youngest daughter was in kindergarten. Since then I've taken many school children, as well as the general public and artistic groups, on nature walks around Horn Pond and through Shaker Glen conservation areas.

Q. What has been your role in helping to protect Woburn's conservation areas?

A. In 2001, I became one of the original members of WREN, which began a stewardship program for all of Woburn's conservation areas, including Horn Pond, Shaker Glen, Battle Road, Cranberry Bog and Rag Rock. As WREN's Stewardship Coordinator, I report all vandalism and storm damage to the Conservation Commission (ConCom). The last few years Rod Flynn, another founder of WREN, has been a one-man show cleaning up and reporting on all these areas. Woburn is unique to have people volunteer like this.

Q. How have you used your photography to promote and preserve Woburn's conservation areas?



Pink Lady Slipper Orchid

A. In the late 1970's, the then Director of ConCom, Pat Brady, in a campaign to help promote Horn Pond as a public area, asked me to put together an exhibit of photos. I had an extensive collection of photographs of scenery, flora and fauna in all seasons taken around Horn Pond and used a selection of these in a mini exhibit in the rotunda at City Hall. The idea was to get people to use, appreciate and help to preserve the Pond. In the late 1980's, as a member of the PTO at the Clapp School, I put on a slide show as part of a kick-off for a fundraising health walk around the Pond by the children. This endeavor blossomed and I ended up developing and showing a program I called "Horn Pond: Ten Thousand Years in the Making". To help educate the public and promote Horn Pond and its conservation, I have shown this program twice at the Burbeen Lecture Series as well as to various organizations in the surrounding towns of Lexington, Winchester, Reading, and Burlington.

Q. What are your hopes for the future of Horn Pond?

A. I would like to see better maintenance of the shoreline areas of Horn Pond, especially the banking along Arlington Road. Native plants along the shore help prevent erosion, provide shade and shelter for wildlife and provide a place for fish to spawn. Trees and native shrubs also provide shelter for wildlife and are a needed windbreak in the winter. Grasses and wildflowers support an abundance of birds and insects. We need to recognize that the Horn Pond conservation area is not a park; it is a conservation area and as such needs to be treated differently than a "grassed park". But at this time there is no funding for conservation areas.



Mt. Towanda mirrored in Horn Pond

All photos in this article courtesy of Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo



New England Wild Columbine

Five Former Mayors Film

continued from page 1

On **October 11th**, the Society will present an unprecedented interview with Woburn's former Chief Executives. Called "Five Former Mayors: Reflections from the Corner Office", the Plasma Films production offers a unique look at the issues that shaped Woburn through the eyes of the men who were at the heart of the decisions.



John Gilgun sharing one of many interesting stories to Kathy Lucero

Photo by Brian Ouellette, Plasma Film

Mayors John Gilgun, John Rabbitt, Robert Dever, John Curran and Thomas McLaughlin gather once again in the 'corner office' at City Hall for a frank talk about their tenures and how the job has changed over the years. In an open and honest discussion, the mayors tackle some of the most controversial issues they faced during their terms. Their opinions and viewpoints are sometimes surprising and viewers will find the film a fascinating look at what happened behind the scenes of

some of Woburn's most interesting issues. The five mayors will be on hand after the program to meet with the audience.

The movie is produced by Brian Ouellette of Plasma Films and features John McElhiney and Kathy Lucero. The program will be held on **Monday, October 11th at Woburn Memorial High School, Flaherty Auditorium at 7:00 pm.** Doors open at 6:30 pm and refreshments will be served after the program. The program is sponsored by a generous donation from Century 21 Crowley-Braese in Woburn.



Society Treasurer, Mike Maher, graciously accepts a donation from Steve Braese of CENTURY 21 Crowley ~ Braese

Photo by Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo



WOBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com
 Info@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com
 (781) 287-0260

DVD ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ Email _____
 City, State Zip _____

TITLE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Count Rumford-The Life and Legacy of Benjamin Thompson	\$18		
Family Farms of Woburn 1860 - 2007	\$18		
Five Former Mayors - Reflections from the Corner Office	\$18		
Fourth Annual Cemetery Tour - 2009	\$18		
History of the Woburn Fire Department	\$18		
History of the Woburn Police Department	\$18		
Narrated Tour of the First Burial Grounds - 2007	\$18		
Pathway of the Patriots - 2007	\$18		
Pathway of the Patriots - 2008	\$18		
Third Annual Cemetery Tour - 2008	\$18		
Woburn: A Leather City	\$18		
Woburn: "Over There" - World War I	\$18		
<i>Prices include shipping and handling within US</i>	ORDER TOTAL		

Make check payable to: Woburn Historical Society
 Mail to: PO Box 91
 Woburn, MA 01801



WOBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A Society of Dedicated Friends

PO Box 91
Woburn, MA 01801

Phone: (781) 287-0260
email: Info@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com
Website: www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com



Woburn Historical Society
Membership Application

The mission of the Society is to preserve and promote the valuable history of Woburn through education and increased awareness of the community's rich heritage and culture.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell/Work phone _____

Email address _____

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NEW | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$25 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$35 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | RENEWAL | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$10 Student Membership |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 Business/Organization Membership |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ Additional Donation |

Please make check out to: **Woburn Historical Society**

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THANK YOU!