



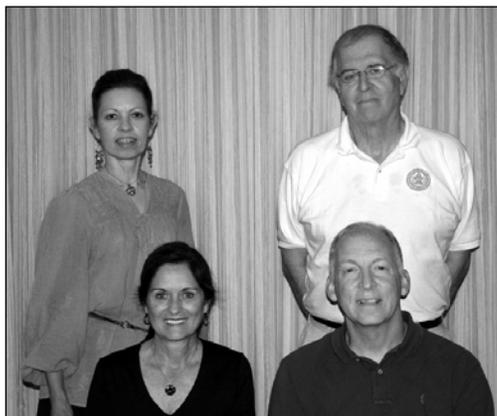
# Woburn Historical Society

## The Lamplighter

Volume 1, Issue 1

July - September 2007

### A Letter from the Founders



Back - Darlene Wigton, Walt Kearney  
 Front - Kathy Lucero, Cary Scarborough  
*Photo by Gerry Kehoe, Innitou Photo*

Hello everyone and welcome to the first issue of **The Lamplighter** - the quarterly newsletter of the Woburn Historical Society (WHS)!

In future issues, this column will be the "Letter from the President." For the inaugural issue, though, it seems only right to acknowledge the four founders by describing the origins of WHS and presenting the founders' hopes for the future of the Society.

I was just minding my own business one day in early January 2006, looking at old Woburn maps in the library, when a soft-spoken lady, Darlene Wigton, asked me if I was researching the genealogy of my house. On my way from Malden to Burlington, I had stopped in the library just to see the interior of this magnificent H.H. Richardson-designed structure. I thought I would look at some old maps to get a sense of how Woburn had developed over the years. "Well," she said, "if you want old maps, go see Walt Kearney in the basement of City Hall."

After a few minutes discussing Walt's maps and my ingrained interest in history (I grew up in PA within short drives to many local historic battlefields), he mentioned that he and a few friends were planning to start a Woburn Historical Society. "Would you like to be a part of that?" he asked. I said that I would consider it, and we proceeded to look at the huge amount of map organizing that he has done. (Woburn is blessed to have this technical whiz and the resources he has cre-

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### Baldwin Monument Rededication and First Burial Ground Tour on October 20th

by Walt Kearney and Darlene Wigton

Two events touching upon Woburn's history will be held on Saturday, October 20th.

At 10 a.m., the City of Woburn will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Loammi Baldwin's death by rededicating the Baldwin Monument on Baldwin Green in North Woburn. The monument has undergone a complete restoration by Skylight Studios, Inc. of Woburn, including replacing the sword that disappeared 30 years ago. Alderman-at-Large and Chair of the Restoration Committee, Joanna Gonsalves, and Program Coordinator, Ginny Knower have worked tirelessly to ensure the restoration was complete in time for the rededication ceremony.

If you attend, you will see the Woburn Historical Society's Living History Committee, including the Woburn and Charlestown Militias participating in this City-sponsored program. Donations will be gratefully accepted by the Restoration Committee and used to off-set the costs incurred. Parking is available in the Stop and Shop lot. You can learn more about this event by clicking on "Video-Important Message" on the home page of our website at [www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com).

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*Photo by Gerry Kehoe  
 Innitou Photo*

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Please visit our website at [www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com)

The Woburn Historical Society is excited to offer this inaugural issue of *The Lamplighter*. This quarterly newsletter is being published with the purpose of sharing topics of interest, and for the education and enjoyment of our members and our community. *The Lamplighter* will be posted on our website at [www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com).

We invite you, our members and readers, to send comments, suggestions on topics of interest, and contributions of relevant articles and photographs to:

**Lamplighter@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com**  
or  
**The Lamplighter**  
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781-287-0260

This issue highlights the WHS Committees and their activities, with a lot of coverage dedicated to reenactment-style Special Events. Our activities include much more than that, and the next issue will highlight a review of the broad range of interesting meeting programs we have presented since the first general meeting on March 13, 2006.

**Officers and Directors 2006 - 2007**

- President ..... Cary Scarborough
- Vice President ..... Kathy Lucero
- Secretary ..... Sue Holland
- Treasurer ..... Ellen Lennon
  
- Joseph Crowley ..... Melissa Davidson-Kyle
- Clare Hurley ..... Walt Kearney
- Gerry Kehoe ..... Dawn Lennon
- Peter Lennon ..... John McElhiney
- Darlene Wigton

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- Education ..... Kathy Lucero
- Fund Raising ..... Peter Lennon
- Living History ..... Darlene Wigton
- Membership ..... Melissa Davidson-Kyle
- Sports History ..... Walt Kearney
- Veteran's Oral History ..... Kathy Lucero
- Woburn History Channel ..... Walt Kearney
- Woburn Militia ..... Jim Catania

**Other Resources**

- Audio-Video Recording..... Brian Ouellette  
William Foley
- Costume Design ..... Darlene Wigton
- Early Photography ..... Leon Basile
- Genealogy ..... Melissa Davidson-Kyle  
Kathy Lucero  
Connie Kenney
- Historian ..... John McElhiney
- Historical Researchers ..... Dorothy Geary  
Linda Pouech
- Media Relations ..... Joseph Crowley
- Newsletter Editor..... Clare Hurley
- On-Location Field Supervisor ..... Rodney Flynn
- Photographer ..... Gerry Kehoe
- Print Production ..... Kathy Lucero
- Special Events Producer ..... Walt Kearney
- Theatrical Interpretations ..... Kim Carrell
- Webmaster ..... Walt Kearney



**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- October 20th**  
**Baldwin Monument Rededication and  
2nd Annual First Burial Ground Tour**  
*See article on page one for information*
  
- October 28th**  
**Annual Halloween Parade**  
*1:00 p.m.*  
*Main Street, Woburn*
  
- November 12th**  
**Woburn's Voices of World War II**  
*American Legion, George A. Campbell Post 101  
194 Lexington Street, Woburn*
  
- December 10th**  
**2nd Annual Holiday Party**  
*6:30 p.m.*  
*Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church  
70 Montvale Avenue, Woburn*
  
- January 14th**  
**Janis Duffy of the Massachusetts State Archives**  
**"Genealogy"**  
*7:00 p.m.*  
*First Congregational Church*
  
- February 11th**  
**The History of Woburn Tanneries \***  
*7:00 p.m.*  
*First Congregational Church*
  
- March 10th**  
**Annual Meeting, Year in Review, Elections  
and a performance by musician John Root**  
*7:00 p.m.*  
*First Congregational Church*

\* TANNERY PHOTOS AND STORIES NEEDED! On February 11, 2008, the WHS will be presenting an historic perspective of Woburn's Tanneries. We are actively seeking photos and documentation from people who were employed in this industry. If you have any information you would like to contribute regarding this very interesting topic, please contact Melissa Davidson-Kyle @ 781-491-0988 or [mdavidsonkyle@comcast.net](mailto:mdavidsonkyle@comcast.net), or Kathy Lucero at 781-935-1492 or [oss1@comcast.net](mailto:oss1@comcast.net).

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ated!) At the end of the hour I agreed to help form the WHS with Walt, Darlene and Kathy Lucero (all members of the Historical Commission Ad Hoc Committee which had been formed to start a "historical society".)

We met frequently in City Hall throughout January and February, 2006 putting some basic infrastructure together and planning the first meeting for Tuesday, March 13. Pastor Deryk Richenburg, of the First Congregational Church, was kind enough to provide our venue and the first program - a guided tour and history of the church and its structure. At our first meeting Peter Lennon, a current Board member, came forward with a very generous donation to help provide a solid funding base for our future activities. To our great delight and to the huge benefit of the WHS, our meetings and activities have been well-covered by the Woburn Advocate and the Woburn Daily Times-Chronicle from the beginning. Some of our special programs have even garnered coverage by the Boston Globe!

As we went through the assembly process, we deliberated about our intent for the Society. One over-riding unanimous thought was that we would setup an organization that would bring local history to life in an enjoyable way... in the "first person" whenever possible. Many of us remember some history classes in school that were basically drudgery - endlessly memorizing distant events, places, and dates that we felt were useless. Well, THIS historical society was designed to present opportunities for the research, study, collection, connection, presentation, and preservation of Woburn-area historical resources in meaningful ways that are enjoyable for people from all age groups, backgrounds and interests.

We hope to do many great things to benefit Woburn, and although our activities are open to non-members, your becoming a member supports the Society and its goals. Now, as we are into our second year, we look forward to more success and expanded membership. We see the Society members, activities and events as goodwill ambassadors of the City. In that regard, our local-themed programs have been very well received within the city, and we also have created two ongoing, annual special events, Pathway of the Patriots, and the Cemetery Tour, both of which have drawn regional interest. All of this activity promotes a good image of Woburn, insures that the Society's existence is sustainable and adds immeasurable value to the quality of life for our citizens.

On behalf of the four founders -- Kathy Lucero, Darlene Wigton, and Walt Kearney and me -- welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Lamplighter* and to the Woburn Historical Society's network of members, friends and supporters. We appreciate your energetic and lasting support!

*Special thanks to Reverend Deryk Richenburg of the First Congregational Church, 322 Main Street, Woburn for generously allowing the WHS to use the community room for our monthly meetings.*

(continued from page 1, Burial Ground Tour)

In the afternoon, the Living History Committee will again host narrated tours of the First Burial Ground on Park Street in Woburn Center at 1:00 p.m., 1:50 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. This year's program includes some very entertaining and educational theatrical presentations about five Woburn residents who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries, including:

**Simeon Reed** - The man who traded his wife for a team of oxen;

**Phebe Walker Richardson** - The mad hatter of the Ark Tavern;

**Loammi Baldwin** - Baldwin goes to the aid of Loyalist friend Ben Thompson;

**Ichabod Richardson** - Assumed dead, returns to find his wife re-married; and

**Mary Richardson Fowle** - Matriarch of the town, tells of early hardships.

Last year's event drew 300 people despite being postponed twice due to inclement weather. It was a fairly modest production using just a handful of performers. This year's production is far more ambitious featuring dozens of actors both in the cemetery and at Citizens Park. All of the characters and stories are new; nothing will be repeated from last year's event. And, there will be a surprise or two, including the appearance of a live team of oxen at Citizens Park! Watch for coverage of this event in local and regional news...if not on CNN!!



Photo by Gerry Kehoe,  
Innitou Photo

This is a free admission event, however tickets are required and are available at the Woburn Historical Commission Office at City Hall and at the Woburn Public Library or by calling Walt Kearney at 781-287-0260. The tours will begin in Citizens Park in Woburn Square before proceeding to The First Burial Ground. Ticket holders are asked to assemble in Citizens Park a few minutes before your tour's starting time. Free parking is available in the Walnut Street Municipal parking lot.

After the tour, you are invited to our hospitality gathering in the basement of the First Baptist Church directly opposite the

(continued to page 9, Burial Ground Tour)

## An Interview with ... John McElhiney

by Clare Hurley

John McElhiney is an attorney by profession, has served in local government, and is one of the original board members of the Woburn Historical Society. John has a serious interest in history and is the author of two books on Woburn. His book, *Woburn – A Past Observed*, an epic work taking several years of research, is perhaps the most comprehensive and important publication since that of Samuel Sewell. John's book covers the history of Woburn from 1850 to the late 1970's and his writings are frequently used as the basis for scripts and stories used in WHS Living History Committee performances. John also takes on the role of live narrator/historian in these performances.



Photo provided by  
Walt Kearney

**Q.** *You seem to be very active in the community. Tell us a little about yourself and your involvement with various organizations, the Woburn Historical Society among them.*

**A.** I was born and raised in Woburn. I attended St. Charles School, then Woburn High School (Class of 1973), Suffolk University, and Suffolk University Law School. I've been practicing law since 1979, with an office here in Woburn since 1982. I'm married to Sheila Tracey McElhiney, and we have a son, Joseph, who is thirteen.

I love my hometown. My parents were very involved in the community, as were their parents before them, so I guess it just came naturally from that, the idea that you take an active role in things, and try to give something back along the way. I've enjoyed in particular my association with the Council for Social Concern, the Boys & Girls Club, and, of late, the Woburn Historical Society. But I'm no different than a lot of Woburnites, for it has always been a community where people give very generously of their time.

**Q.** *What do you think sparked your interest in Woburn's history?*

**A.** I'm not sure exactly, but again, it probably goes back to my upbringing. My father worked for the city, so there was always plenty of "Woburn" talk around the dinner table. I also had a grandfather who lived with us, and who was legally blind, but who loved to have the *Woburn Daily Times* read to him every day. My brother, my mother and I would take turns. It was kind of funny, for like all my friends I could name the starting lineup on the Red Sox, but I was the only ten year old in the neighborhood who could also name all nine members of the City Council. Looking back, that exposure to local government, and to local history, probably did spark something, as it turned out.

**Q.** *You've written or co-written two books on local history. How did that come about, and what impact do you think the books have had?*

**A.** The idea for *Woburn – A Past Observed* came about after I read Sewall's *History of Woburn*<sup>1</sup>, written in 1868. I was surprised to learn that there was no updated history of the city. I said to myself one day, "Hey, why don't I give it a try?" Eight years of research and writing later, I had myself a book.

A few years later I hooked up with three other local history buffs (Tom Smith, Bill Campbell and Bob Maguire) and had a lot of fun collaborating on *Woburn – Forgotten Tales & Untold Stories*.

I'd like to think in some small way that the books may have spurred some interest in local history. I say "small way," because I know there have been many people who have contributed to this whole renewed focus on Woburn's past. And lately, of course, the work that Walt Kearney, Kathy Lucero, Cary Scarborough, Darlene Wigton and others have done in forming the historical Society deserves recognition as well. The level of interest in Woburn's history is high right now, and an active historical society can be just the right vehicle to keep that interest going.

**Q.** *Any final thoughts on this renewed focus on Woburn's history?*

**A.** Yes. As informative as learning about local history can be, it can be an awful lot of fun as well. The society has proven that with some of their programs. You know we can look at that word "history" a thousand times before we realize that within it is the word "story." Everyone loves a good story. And if history is a story, then local history is *our* story. What could be more interesting?

<sup>1</sup> Sewell, Samuel (1868) *The History of Woburn, Middlesex County, Mass. From the Grant of its Territory to Charlestown, in 1640 to the Year 1860*. Boston, MA: Wiggin and Lunt.

## Committee Updates

### **Membership Committee - Melissa Davidson-Kyle, Chair**

Many thanks to all of the individuals who have paid their membership to the Woburn Historical Society. This nominal fee contributes to the overall success of our organization. Dues help provide the resources needed to offer a wide array of interesting programs that are rich in historical importance and cultural value -- in the city that we call "home."

The historical presentations the Society offers for the enjoyment and education of its members, cultivate a framework that creates a lasting legacy and provides a tradition for future generations of Woburnites.

You are encouraged to join in this collective effort by completing the membership application and survey found on pages nine and ten. If you have any questions, please call Melissa Davidson-Kyle at 781-491-0988.

*The Woburn Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and membership dues are tax deductible.*

### **Veterans Oral History Project - Kathy Lucero, Chair**

Since 2006, the Veterans Oral History Committee (VOHC) has been developing a repository of first-hand oral histories of Woburn veterans. The VOHC is committed to collect, preserve and honor the military service of the men and women of Woburn who served and lived through extraordinary times.

Starting with World War II and Korean veterans, the VOHC is conducting audio interviews and collecting their photos, documents, maps, and diaries which are scanned and preserved on a CD. One copy of the CD is presented to the veteran and a second CD is kept in the WHS archives for future use. The VOHC is grateful for the volunteer efforts of Brian Ouellette of Plasma Films for his technical work and expertise, and to Gerry Kehoe and Michael Kelly who scan all of the materials.

Kathy Lucero has conducted over 35 interviews of veterans recorded on audio tape to date. Working with Marie Coady, who has completed multiple profiles of Woburn veterans over the past fifteen years, a wonderful collection is being developed. Also assisting in this very important project is Melissa Davidson Kyle.

These collections of interviews and memorabilia will be made available in the future to families, veterans groups and school programs which will allow current and future generations of Woburnites to learn how these military experiences affected the lives of those who served, their families, and America itself.

Please join us on Monday, **November 12, 2007** at 7 p.m. at the American Legion in Woburn to honor "Woburn's Voices of World War II" presented by Kathy Lucero.

**VETERANS ARE NEEDED** - If a veteran or a family member of a deceased veteran would like to participate in this very important project, please contact Kathy Lucero at 781-935-1492 or oss1@comcast.net, or contact Charlie Culhane, Veterans Agent for Woburn at 781-932-4485.

### **Education Committee - Kathy Lucero, Chair**

The purpose of this Committee is to develop historical programs that can be shared with our school children at all levels. This year, a pilot program entitled "Woburn's Voices of World War II" will be presented to Woburn Memorial High School's sophomore history class beginning on November 12th through the 16th. The presentations will focus on specific events in World War II and will include time with a veteran who actually participated in that event and who will share their own personal experiences.

### **The Living History Committee - Darlene Wigton, Chair**

The Living History Committee is a highly visible, theatrical part of the Woburn Historical Society. It is composed of three sub-committees:

- The Woburn Militia
- The Living History Guild
- The Living History Players

**The Woburn Militia** is Chaired by, or in 18th century re-enactment terms, commanded by "Captain" Jim Catania. This is Woburn's 18th century re-enactment unit representing the Woburn Militiamen, their families, and other attached civilians, as they served during the Revolutionary War. The Militia participates both in Woburn's local events and in parades and re-enactments in other cities and towns.

In preparation for the Pathway of the Patriots event this past April, Captain Jim Catania and Darlene Wigton worked to re-

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cruit several Militiamen and re-enactors from other communities to take part. Among those who responded were Captain Tom Coots and members of the Charlestown Militia. They had also recently decided to reestablish their recreated

Militia unit and had just begun to recruit. With much in common (including historic origins), important friendships and a definite camaraderie have grown between the two groups, and they have been appearing together since that first collaboration. By joining forces, the two groups form a company of militia that reach a critical number, enabling them to take part in parades and other events.

Since Pathway of the Patriots, the Militias have marched in combination in Charlestown's Parade commemorating the Battle of Bunker Hill, and in Townsend's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade. Recently they performed drilling maneuvers at the Oak Grove Improvement Association's HarvestFest in Malden.

Current appearances:

October 20<sup>th</sup> – Woburn: Baldwin Stature Ceremony and Cemetery Tour

October 28<sup>th</sup> – Woburn: Halloween Parade

Musket-carrying members are currently enrolled in the black-powder training program, taught by the National Park Service Rangers at the Bunker Hill Monument, to qualify to participate in musket-firing demonstrations in the National Park.

**The Living History Guild** members are re-enactors whose goal is to bring Woburn's history to life through portrayals using historically accurate period clothing, crafts, and activities. They are encouraged to research and portray a specific historical Woburn resident, either in character or narrative. Members are primarily 18th century re-enactors who qualify as individuals to participate in National Historical Park programs, but occasionally are called upon to step into other time periods.

When the WHS was asked if someone could represent the women of Woburn in 1887 for the Tidd Home's recent anniversary, Robin Longendyke volunteered to take on the project. Usually an 18th century re-enactor, she immersed herself in research of Woburn in the 1880's, constructed a gown, and appeared with great success at the Tidd Home's Victorian Tea!

**The Living History Players** are actors who dramatize historical figures and events through theatrical arts. Members usually do not own period dress, as Militia and Guild re-enactors do, but use various combinations of theatrical costume and period clothing as provided by the Living History Committee. The Players are not dedicated to a specific era, and may play Woburn residents from the 17th century Founders to citizens during the Civil War or any time between or beyond, depending on the roles created for them by the historical researchers and script writers.

In addition to the re-enactors and players of the subcommittees, there are many non-costumed members of the Living History Committee. These include researchers, writers, narrators, wranglers, producer, site manager, photographers, technicians, stage crew, and various assistants who all come together to make possible our two annual events, Pathway of the Patriots and The Cemetery Tours, and other special programs in which the Committee takes part.

### ***Theatrical Director***

While Pathway of the Patriots was in the planning stages, Woburn resident and professional actor, Kim Carrell, joined the Living History Committee as our Theatrical Director. He wrote the scripts and directed the scenes which were performed along the Old Battle Road trail and has now written scripts for the Cemetery Tours.

Kim brings years of theater training and experience and currently works with the Freedom Trail Foundation in Boston. The Woburn Historical Society is extremely fortunate to have his talent and dedication as our Director. The Players and Re-enactors are now in rehearsal and have our work cut out for us to achieve this new level of performance under his direction!

Check out Kim's interesting website at <http://www.kimcarrell.com>.

### **Contacts for information or to join:**

Living History Committee, Darlene Wigton, 781-933-4976, ladygarak@butter.toast.net  
Woburn Militia, Jim Catania, [jimcatania@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcatania@hotmail.com), [www.woburnmilitia.org](http://www.woburnmilitia.org)

### ***Woburn History Channel*** - Walt Kearney, Chair

WHS is now able to offer "video-on-demand" for all of its original production programs. This means that at any time of the day, from any computer having an internet connection, you will be able to view any program that the WHS has produced in-house in its entirety. This faster technology plays a continuous stream of video as it comes over your internet connection; performance with dialup connections will be very slow.

(continued on page 9, Committee Updates)

## The Pathway of the Patriots Reenactment a Huge Success

by Walt Kearney and Darlene Wigton

This past April, the Living History Committee conducted tours and performed multiple theatrical dramatizations on Old Battle Road Conservation Area in West Woburn to honor the citizens of Woburn who participated in the pivotal events at Lexington and Concord. More than 60 people were involved in the production including the Living History Players, 18th century re-enactors, tour guides, script writers, site managers, promoters, videographers, photographers, and others who made this event a remarkable success. The event attracted over 500 people, including many from outside of our city, who were amazed that Woburn has such a considerable and under-reported history in the American Revolution.

An article in the April 12th Boston Globe Northwest section by columnist Alex Reid quotes Walt Kearney, special events manager as saying, "each vignette is a true story, taken from journals, historical records, and books written about the battle. One of the principal participants that day was Loammi Baldwin, Major of the Woburn Militia and member of the Sons of Liberty. He recorded much of what happened in his personal diary. These are eyewitness details from someone who was actually there. It's great history."

Woburn Historical Society President, Cary Scarborough, opened the event. Many City officials attended, including a very pleased Mayor Tom McLaughlin, who declared the event a huge success. John McElhiney, Sue Holland, and Joe Brown served as tour guides. John, who is credited as one of the City's leading historians, also contributed his historical research to this event. Marie Coady, long time local historian and newspaper columnist, was honored at the cast party that followed. Not to go unmentioned were members from the Charlestown Militia who appeared with our newly-formed Woburn Militia, and guest re-enactors from as far away as New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

The local and regional newspapers covered this story, putting Woburn in a positive spotlight. The question now is can the Living History Committee 'top' this event with an equal or better program next Patriots Day? With such a dedicated and talented group to work on it, we say, 'Of course!'



## Woburn Square in the Post War Years

by Sue Ellen Holland

Woburn Historical Society member, Sue Ellen Holland, and Tom Doyle, both of the Woburn Public Library (WPL) presented a program entitled, "Woburn Square in the Post-War Era" on September 10th at the First Congregational Church. Attendees were taken on a photographic walk through Woburn Square as it appeared in the late 1940's to mid-1950's. All of the photographs are part of the Woburn Public Library's Patrick Farino Collection. Mr. Farino was a popular photographer for many years in Woburn and took photos for the military, weddings and special events. He photographed families, and political, community, and newsworthy events as well as being the crime photographer for the Woburn Police Department. The WPL's Farino Collection consists of hundreds of photographs and about 45,000 negatives. The presentation focused on those photographs taken in Woburn Square. Photographs included: an aerial view of Woburn Center taken from the South End; Lucia's Market and its owners, Albert and Ernest Lucia; an air raid drill showing Civil Defense workers and police officers in front of the "Esso" gas station; local businesses such as O'Briens Drug Store, Sears, Roebuck and Co., Adriens Fabrics, F.W. Woolworth's, Roberts Jewelers, Marquis Party and Pastry Shoppe, and L.J. Murphy's Drug Store. There are women pushing baby carriages, police officers walking their beats, and children riding bicycles, with a few bicycles parked outside Barney Callahan's Ice Cream Shop. Also shown were photos of Woburn Common and several churches, including one of Saint Charles Church during a visit by the man who would later be known as Richard Cardinal Cushing. Familiar Woburn faces included Mayor Francis H. Murray, Steve Lannan and Fred Doherty of Lannan/Ungerman Chevrolet Dealership, Hugh Neelon of Can-

non-Neelon Paint and Wallpaper Store, Jerome Gorrassi of Fireside Gift Shop, and Joe O'Brien and his five sons of Joe O'Brien & Sons Paint and Wallpaper Store. Additional photos showed Royal Furniture, Manley's Cleaners, Moore and Parker, Mahoney's Barber Shop, Silverman's Men's Store, and the Fallon and Halliday Grocery Store. Other photos of note included the Strand Theater. In the photo below, children are lined up outside to attend a matinee showing of "Gorilla At Large". An empty gorilla's cage is in front of the theater and on the roof, above the children, is a "gorilla" holding a child. Not the type of promotion one would see today!



Courtesy Woburn Public Library Patrick Farino Collection



(continued from page 3, Burial Ground Tour)

cemetery on Park Street. Refreshments will be served and you will have an opportunity to interact with several genealogists and even get to meet some of the current-day members of Woburn's founding families!

Please note that this event is not handicapped accessible and children under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult. In the event of bad weather, the program will be held on Sunday, October 21st.

For more information and tickets, call 781-287-0260 or visit our website at [www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Distinguished Visitors from Near and Afar

by Walt Kearney

**Hugh Belsey** from Cambridge, England visited Woburn to look at the paintings housed at the Rumford Birthplace Home in North Woburn. Mr. Belsey is the foremost authority on the works of Thomas Gainsborough and curator of Gainsborough's House, a museum and art gallery at the birthplace of Thomas Gainsborough in England. He has published widely on Gainsborough and other 18th-century artists, most recently *Gainsborough: A Country Life*.

**Robert Converse** from Plain City, Ohio is an officer of the Archaeological Society of Ohio and editor of its quarterly publication, *Ohio Archaeologist*. Mr. Converse is a descendent of Woburn's founding father, Edward Converse and came to Woburn with his family seeking to visit the Old Burial Ground. After visiting the Park Street cemetery, he toured the Woburn area

**Lyn and Greg Snow** from Brisbane, Australia have ancestors buried at the First Burial Ground on Park Street and are coming back to Woburn for the First Burial Ground Tour on October 20<sup>th</sup>!! Please join us in making them feel at home and honor their long journey.

*We would like to express our appreciation to Michael Kelly for creating and printing all of the WHS monthly meeting notices. His contributions have ensured great attendance at all our meetings.*

## Membership Application Survey

Please fill out both sides of this form

As part of welcoming new people to the Woburn Historical Society, we survey you for expressions of interests. We are looking for members to take some leadership positions as potential Committee Chairs, Officers and Board Members. All positions are "working" positions; preferred candidates would be those who bring diverse, useful expertise, energy and experience to the table. Above all, they should be "team" players who want to make membership here enjoyable as well as informative. Please help us to direct our efforts in the most productive ways.

**Please indicate your interests**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/ Art/ Maps/ Books  | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs (to school, civic groups, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Clothing/Costumes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Living History Guild/ re-enacting                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports History   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit, Meeting, Event Planning                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops (giving or going)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications   | <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting ( Coins, Ephemera, Tools, etc.)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Oral History   | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising and Development  | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation (artifacts, real estate, etc.)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Governance ( <input type="checkbox"/> Board, <input type="checkbox"/> Officer, <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Chair, <input type="checkbox"/> Worker Bee) |   |

**Define your own interests (including "Era-related" interests e.g. Civil War, WWII, Colonial, '50s):**

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**Skills and Interests you have to offer. Expand on any of the foregoing. Make suggestions.**

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**A Society of Dedicated Friends**



**WOBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 91  
Woburn, MA 01801

Phone: 781-287-0260  
E-mail: WoburnHistory@yahoo.com  
Web Site: www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com

**Woburn Historical Society  
Annual Membership Application**



*The mission of the society is to preserve the valuable history of Woburn by involving interested citizens in the preservation of our community's heritage and culture.*

**Please fill out both sides of this form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

The WHS is an IRS-designated 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations to it are tax-deductible on your Federal income tax forms. All membership fees and donations are directly applied to the costs of our monthly historical enrichment programs and lectures.

**Individual Membership \$25.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Membership \$35.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Membership \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business/Organization/Benefactor/Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership application also available  
on  
[www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com)**

*Please forward the membership application along with your check made out to the Woburn Historical Society and mail it to Melissa Davidson-Kyle, 68 Burlington St., Woburn, MA 01801.*