



# Woburn Historical Society The Lamplighter

Volume 2, Number 1

July - September 2008

## A Letter from the President

*from Kathy Lucero*



Sometimes it is difficult to be objective about things when you are too close to them. This is especially true for me when it comes to the Society. I find myself rushing headlong from the end of one project to the beginning of another, focusing on the things that are still undone. I don't always make the time to take a deep breath and reflect on how far we've come.

This was brought home to me a few weeks ago. I recently met a group from a neighboring Historical Society who marveled at the quality of our programs and the enthusiasm of our volunteers. They were impressed by our films and our newsletter and couldn't believe the number of activities, like the Pathway of the Patriots, that the Society brought to the City every year.

One woman said that our accomplishments were surprising for a group that was only four years old. I had to remind her that we were just over two years old, but the exchange got me thinking about how much we truly have achieved.

In a very short time, the Society has become an integral part of the community and we have acquired a reputation for high quality programs that are both educational and entertaining. This reputation has brought us exciting partnerships with other City groups such as the Library, Burbeen, Senior Center, New Horizons, the Veterans and the public school system, to name just a few.

We have attracted a hard-working, intelligent and dedicated group of volunteers who care deeply about the City and the services we offer. They go the extra mile to make sure that everything we do is top-notch. And they have fun doing it.

Although we have a long way to go, our membership has been growing steadily and the increasing attendance at our programs is gratifying. Community support has been wonderful and sponsorship from local companies and city groups has been critical and much appreciated. In all, we've come an amazing distance in a very short period of time.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make our vision a reality.

## Third Annual Cemetery Tour at Olde Woodbrook Cemetery



*Photo courtesy of Joe Brown*

**Sunday ~ October 19th**

**100 Salem Street, Woburn MA**

**Tours begin at 12 pm and 2 pm**

*Please arrive 30 minutes before tour start time*

Parking on Salem Street and in Cemetery from Salem Street entrance

*See Cemetery Tour story on page 4*

## Inside this Issue ...

A Letter from the President	1
Woburn "Over There" - WWI	3
3rd Annual Cemetery Tour at Old Woodbrook Cemetery	4
Burbeen Lecture: <i>Button End Stories</i> by Bruce Allen	5
Old Battle Road Update	5
An Interview with ... Richard Haggerty	6
A Social History of the Woburn Public Library, 1856 - 1879	7
DVD Order Form	7

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

*The Lamplighter*, Woburn Historical Society's quarterly newsletter, is published with the purpose of sharing topics of interest, and for the education and enjoyment of our members and our community. You can find this issue along with all back issues posted on our website at [www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com).

**The Lamplighter**  
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NEW EMAIL ADDRESS  
[Info@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](mailto:Info@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com)

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On-Location Field Supervisor .....	Rodney Flynn
Photographer .....	Gerry Kehoe
Print Production .....	Kathy Lucero
Webmaster .....	Pat Hughes

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**October 16th**

**The Burbeen Free Lecture Fund**  
 in association with  
**Woburn Historical Society and  
 Friends of Woburn Public Library**  
 presents  
**Woburn's Button End Stories**  
*by Bruce Allen*  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Joyce Middle School  
 55 Locust Street, Woburn MA

**October 19th**

**3rd Annual Cemetery Tour**  
 at  
**Olde Woodbrook Cemetery**

Two tours beginning at 12 noon and 2 p.m.  
 Please arrive 30 minutes before tour start time  
 100 Salem Street, Woburn MA

**November 10th**

**Woburn "Over There" – World War I**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Woburn Memorial High School Auditorium  
 88 Montvale Avenue, Woburn MA

**December 8th**

**3rd Annual Members Holiday Party**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church  
 70 Montvale Avenue, Woburn MA

**Special Acknowledgement**

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are  
 courtesy of *Gerry Kehoe of Innitou Photo*

**A BIG THANK YOU**  
 to the  
**KIWANIS CLUB OF WOBURN**  
 and  
**NEW HORIZONS**  
 for their recent generous  
**DONATIONS**

# November's Veterans Day Program to Focus on WWI

## Society Seeks Information on Woburn WWI Veterans

By Rosa DiTucci

In observance of Veterans Day, the Woburn Historical Society will present an hour-long film titled *Woburn "Over There" - WWI*, honoring the men and women from Woburn who served and fought for our freedom during World War I, sometimes called the "War to end all Wars" or the "Great War." The film will showcase the Veterans' amazing feats of quiet heroism and dogged determination, sometimes in the face of near certain death. A display containing WWI artifacts including a uniform jacket and helmet, medals and ephemera, will be available for viewing in the lobby prior to and after the film.

Last year's Veterans Day program was a resounding success and generated feedback about the importance of hearing the personal stories of our Woburn Veterans. "This is so much more meaningful than reading about it in a textbook; it truly makes history come alive," commented a young attendee who expressed the hope that this type of program might become an annual Veterans Day event.



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts National Guard Museum



**Monday, November 10th**

**7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)**

**Woburn Memorial High School Auditorium ~ 88 Montvale Avenue ~ Woburn MA**



If you have photographs of family members who were WWI Doughboys, Sailors or Nurses from Woburn, the Society would like to recognize and honor them by incorporating them into the film. Please contact Kathy Lucero as soon as possible at (781) 935-1492 or by email at [Info@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](mailto:Info@WoburnHistoricalSociety.com) to arrange to loan your items.

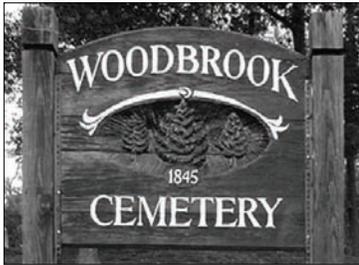
MEN VETERANS		WOMEN VETERANS
Wilbur O. Allen	Charles T. Mahoney	Hazel M. Alexander
Walter S. Archer	Guy Malatesta	Elsie A. Anderson
William L. Ball	James J. McGaffigan	Ethel Conn
William J. Callahan	William McGarr	Eva Mildred Dill
Patrick J. Coyne	Donald McPherson	Harjorie E. Heath
Peter Fleming	James P. O'Doherty	Edna Hinckley
Edward C. Foley	Willis S. Pollins	Grace Hinckley
Walter A. Gillis	Herbert G. Smith	Etta Manning
Shepard E. Grain	Minard Stygles	Anna Marie McGrath
Harry Douglass Guy	Edward J. Wall	Inez H. Miller
Thomas H. Hammond	Albert W. White	Antoinette E. Vary
Lawrence Kelley	John W. White	Marie E. Ward

The Society is especially interested in information on Woburn residents who served with the American Expeditionary Forces in the Yankee Division, 26th Division, the 101st Infantry, or the 3rd Pioneer Infantry. In addition, we are seeking to learn more about Woburn residents who enlisted in the Canadian or Irish Regiments of the British Army in 1915-1916, before America formally entered the War.

Additionally, if you have any information regarding the people listed in the box to the left, it would be greatly appreciated if you would contact Kathy.

## Third Annual Cemetery Tour Sunday October 19th

by Rosa DiTucci



This year's fall cemetery tour will offer a change of pace as the Society moves the event to the old section of Woodbrook Cemetery on Salem Street. The cemetery has been in continuous use since it was first established in 1845 to accommodate the needs of a growing city.

The original 8-acre section of the cemetery consists of peaceful, tree-lined walking paths and impressive monuments that chronicle the history of the early families of Woburn. In fact, when the cemetery first opened, many considered it to be so beautiful that they moved their family members to Woodbrook Cemetery from the First and Second Burial Grounds. This explains why a number of early 19<sup>th</sup> century graves can also be found there.

The tours will be held on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm. Participants are requested to be at the Salem Street entrance a half hour before each tour (11:30 am and 1:30 pm). Once there, people will be split into smaller groups, each with an individual tour guide. The tours are expected to take approximately one and a half hours. Tickets are not required and attendance is open. Parking is available on Salem Street and in the cemetery.

In addition to the tour guides, a number of sites will host actors dressed in period costume. Besides the better-known Woburnites buried at Old Woodbrook, research has brought to light new and intriguing tales about some of the less familiar citizens of the day. Using a first person narrative, the actors will bring these stories to life for the audience. Some of the anecdotes are humorous, some are poignant, but they are all sure to enlighten and inspire. The tour will also discuss the symbols used on the monuments and their meanings.

Since this is a walking tour, please wear comfortable shoes and bring clothing appropriate for the weather. A small portion of the tour is not handicap accessible. In the event of rain, the tours will go on as planned and people are urged to bring umbrellas. If there are extreme weather conditions, please check [www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WoburnHistoricalSociety.com) or (781) 287-0260 for cancellation notification.



Photo courtesy of Joe Brown

This year's Cemetery Tour is generously co-sponsored by Northern Bank & Trust Company and Century21 Crowley, the longest established bank and the longest established real estate office in Woburn.



Photo courtesy of Joe Brown

**OLDE WOODBROOK CEMETERY**  
**100 SALEM STREET, WOBURN MA**  
**SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**TOURS BEGIN AT 12 PM AND 2 PM**  
*Please arrive 30 minutes before tour begins*  
**RAIN OR SHINE**  
**NO TICKETS NEEDED**  
**PARKING ON SALEM STREET and**  
**IN CEMETERY FROM SALEM STREET ENTRANCE**



## An Interview with ... Richard Haggerty

by Clare L. Hurley



Photo courtesy of  
Richard Haggerty

Richard (Dick) Haggerty's family has resided in Woburn for over 150 years. His grandfather, James D. Haggerty, began publishing the Woburn Daily Times newspaper in 1901 and Dick and members of his family still own and run this independent newspaper. In 1981, the Haggerty family business purchased the historically significant 1790 House located on Main Street in N. Woburn.

Dick is the current chairperson of the Woburn Historic District Commission (WHDC) which was established in 2004 with the purpose of preserving and protecting distinctive buildings that have a significant place in Woburn's history.

### **Q. What is the historic importance of the 1790 House?**

A. This two story Federal-style historic home, constructed at the end of the 18th century, was once owned by Revolutionary War hero Loammi Baldwin. Several grand balls were held here including the Grand Centennial Ball in 1800, the Silk Stocking Ball in 1802, as well as a gala event to mark the opening of the Middlesex Canal, which still runs beside this grand old home. In the early 19th century, the home passed to the hands of Baldwin's descendants. Preserving this home, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, helps to keep alive this important slice of Woburn's early history.

### **Q. How did the newspaper business your family owns come to own the 1790 House?**

A. In 1981, the house's owners, the North Congregational Church, had the property up for sale. It was in danger of being purchased by developers planning to raze it to make room to build multifamily homes. Two hours before the deal was to go through, the Church unselfishly agreed to accept our lower bid of \$280,000 in the interest of saving the 1790.

### **Q. What were the plans for the House once our family owned it?**

A. Originally, the plan was to put a publishing plant in the back of the property, but that idea was dropped. Restorations began as the building approached its 200th anniversary. In 1997, the property was re-zoned and the house was moved to the back of the property, providing space to build a hotel with the caveat to further restore the 1790. Overall, we invested \$1,000,000 to bring the building back to its former splendor, preserving such historical exterior and interior architectural details as the two-story balustrade porch and arched ceiling ballroom on the second floor. Since our ownership, it has been adaptively reused for rental office space but currently there are no renters and the building is up for sale.

### **Q. Would you please speak about the establishment of the Baldwin Homestead Historic District?**

A. With Tom Smith as the Chairperson, the WHDC created the first historic district, called the Baldwin Homestead Historic District. When the 1790's portico needed replacement we worked with the Building Department to assure the historic sense of this building was maintained. Today the BHHD encompasses the 1790 House, the Baldwin Mansion, Kiwanis Park, the Middlesex Canal, and the canal's tow path. Looking forward we are working to establish other historic districts which will include 22 houses.



The 1790 House jacked up and awaiting its move to another location on the property *before* restoration. Photo provided by Richard Haggerty



1790 House in its new and current location on the property and *after* restoration. Photo provided by Richard Haggerty

## By Valor and Labor: A Social History of the Woburn Public Library, 1856-1879

On Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, a crowd of over 200 people attended the kick-off of the Library's Fall Lecture Series. Entitled "By Valor and Labor: A Social History of the Woburn Public Library, 1856-1879," the presentation was sponsored by the Woburn Historical Society.

John McElhiney and Sue Ellen Holland, both of the Society were joined by Tom Doyle, library archivist, for the hour-long lecture. Together, they wove a picture of the social and cultural shifts that led to the building of the library, and a description of those who made it a reality.

The Library as it exists today was made possible through a large bequest by Charles Bowers Winn. In 1875 he left \$140,000.00 to the Town of Woburn, "...to be used and disposed of for the purpose and in the interest of a Public Library." In today's value, his donation would be worth approximately \$18-25 million.



*Photo by Henry P. Harrington, provided courtesy of Woburn Public Library, Glennon Archives*

Winn stipulated in his will that the library should be an "architectural ornament" and that influential architects should be brought in to design the building. In fact, one of that era's most important architects, H.H. Richardson, won the project, shortly after the dedication of another of his great masterpieces; Trinity Church in Boston.



Sue Ellen Holland concluded the presentation with a photographic montage that showed the city "Then and Now" followed by a short question and answer period. As if to verify that the library is a true masterpiece, an audience member rose to inform everyone that he was an architectural professor and would shortly bring a group of his students to study the library as a wonderful example of Richardson's work.

The next installment in the Library's Lecture Series is a bus tour of various H. H. Richardson sites on November 16th. The tour runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person and includes admission to the Stonehurst House and Trinity Church. To register, call the Library at (781) 933-0148.



**WOBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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**DVD ORDER FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Family Farms of Woburn 1860 - 2007	\$15		
History of the Woburn Police Department	\$18		
Narrated Tour of the First Burial Grounds - 2007	\$15		
Pathway of the Patriots - 2007	\$15		
Pathway of the Patriots - 2008	\$15		
Woburn: A Leather City	\$15		
<i>Prices include shipping and handling within US</i>			<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>

Make check payable to: **Woburn Historical Society**  
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**Woburn, MA 01801**



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**Woburn Historical Society**  
**2008/2009 Annual Membership Application**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 membership application along with your check made out to "Woburn Historical Society" to  
PO Box 91, Woburn, MA 01801*