

June 27, 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

The members of the Plainfield Historical Society invite you to attend our annual meeting which will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 at the Plainfield Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. A short business meeting will be followed by a visit from a mystery guest, a mid 20th century poet and Plainfield resident. He restored one of the older homes in Plainfield when the population was just over 200. He will describe a very different town in those days. Please plan to join us for an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

This has been an active year for the Plainfield Historical Society hosting many outstanding programs. In December, William Hosley, historian extraordinaire, gave a powerpoint program at the town hall entitled, Rediscovering the Shaw Hudson House. (It can be viewed on YouTube.) This was followed by tours of the Shaw Hudson House. We welcome all donations to help cover operating expenses at the Shaw Hudson House.

The Plainfield Historical Society hosted two public programs at our library: the first, The Potash Industry, first industry of the hilltowns, on Feb. 5 was presented by Ramon Black, president of the Williamsburg Historical Society; the second on April 2, entitled Shay's Rebellion: Reclaiming the Revolution given by Tom Goldscheider. Both programs were well attended and well received.

On Monday, May 27 members of the Plainfield Historical Society hosted the Memorial Day Dinner at the town hall. We served ham, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, and delicious home baked pies to approximately 70 hungry people. Pies were auctioned off amidst much friendly competition. The dinner was followed by the parade from the town hall to the Hilltop Cemetery for Memorial Day Services.

On Friday, June 7 Carole Fisher's 23 third grade students from Sanderson Academy visited Plainfield. They learned about early Plainfield history from Lydia Richard's, an early resident, when they visited the Shaw Hudson House. This was followed by a visit to the historic Willcutt Mill on South Union Street. Present owner, Hugh Hawkins, explained the workings of the mill. Undaunted by a steady rainfall the hearty students and Dario Coletta explored the three mill sites owned by the Historical Society along the Mill Stream.

Our goal of planting 100 sugar maple trees has been reached thanks to the efforts of Dario Coletta ably assisted by Rebecca Coletta, Jack Nelson, and Dudley Williams. These trees will be a lasting legacy to leave for future generations of Plainfield residents & friends due to the generosity of the people who adopted a sugar maple tree in memory of family members or friends. We hope to continue replacing sugar maple trees as many of our memorable maples are deteriorating.

Lori Austin has created an awesome website: plainfieldmahistory.org. It is a creative archive with links to important people, sites, hidden walls hidden mills, resources, collections, and maps. It, also, includes a revised Plainfield Historical Society Mission Statement. Please take time to check it out.

Pleun Bouricius, historical society curator, and her team of historical society members, have been working on the inventory data base, a time consuming and arduous, but necessary task.

Preparing the application for the Historic District for Plainfield is an ongoing task. We hope that by 2014 we can report that we have an historic district designation.

This letter serves as a reminder to send your annual dues of \$20 or your donation, payable to the Plainfield Historical Society to Judith Bryan Williams, President, 525 West Main Street, Plainfield, MA 01070. Your support enables the Plainfield Historical Society to continue to preserve the history and traditions of our town.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Judith Bryan Williams

President Plainfield Historical Society