

Dear Members & Friends,

June 2020

The past four months have been a challenging time for all of us and it will take us time to evaluate the lessons, both positive and negative, that we have learned from the Covid 19 experience. As members of an historical society we are living during historical times and it will be interesting to see how the year 2020 is described in the future by historians.

In an attempt to return to normalcy the Plainfield Historical Society plans to have their annual meeting on Tuesday, August 4 (rain date Wed. Aug. 5) at 6:30 P.M. outside in the yard behind the Shaw Hudson House. We are fortunate, thanks to a grant from the Plainfield Cultural Council, to have Dennis Picard, retired director of Storowtown Village in West Springfield and an expert on 18-19th century artifacts, as our speaker. He has been investigating treasures in the Shaw Hudson House Barn and will share his knowledge and the treasures at our meeting. Special accommodations will be made, as necessary, for health reasons. Chairs will be placed at appropriate distances and if masks are recommended, two months from now, we will adhere to that request.

You have probably noticed extensive renovation work on the annex (summer kitchen) at the Shaw Hudson House. Members of the historical society had long hoped to use that area for historical exhibits and a meeting area. We were happily informed a year ago that the Clara Hudson Trust had generated enough money for work on the house. The officers of the Plainfield Historical Society and Congregational Church Trustees met and agreed that this was the opportunity hoped for to renovate the summer kitchen. Beginning in August 2019 Rich Potter, Dario Coletta, Matt Stowell & Pleun Bouricius began the arduous task of clearing out the area. Rich built one of his famous timber frame models to demonstrate to the building inspector the plans for the building. As the floor was disassembled Rich meticulously recorded every detail of the original design. There were three people bidding on the restoration project and Scott Barrow of Wilson Hill Carpentry was selected. As of this time Scott and his helper have been working on the sills and Dario has been doing extensive stone work. Hopefully by the time of our annual meeting you will be able to view the completion of this project.

One of the most exciting historical events for Plainfield during this past year was the discovery by Dario Coletta of the location of the original Plainfield Pound c. 1807. Dario had been searching for the location for 20 years and had narrowed it down to somewhere between River Road and 116. After Matt Stowell did some extensive deed research he and Dario discovered the exact location. They were as excited as if they had discovered a lost treasure chest. You can look forward in the future to a visit to the site and a presentation by Dario.

Another event that you can look forward to this year is on Sat., Oct. 10, (rain date Oct. 11) Columbus Day Weekend. For a number of years Plainfield's famous plumber D.J. Clary has demonstrated his teams of oxen at countless fairs, near and far. He has now agreed to do a demonstration program right here in Plainfield behind the Shaw Hudson House. This will be a fun family event, bring your children and grandchildren, and they will enjoy seeing how the

stone walls in Plainfield were built with the aid of oxen, as well as demonstrations as to how the oxen were used for logging, farming, and sugaring.

And finally as most events have been cancelled for the past four months, including our Memorial Day Dinner and Pie Auction, the Plainfield Historical Society's largest fund raiser of the year, our coffers need replenishing. We respectfully ask you to consider becoming a patron or benefactor (includes a lifetime membership in the historical society). If that is not possible at this time we welcome your membership in any of the following categories: Individual -\$20; Family-\$50; Friend - \$100 +; Patron -\$200+; Benefactor-\$500+. Send your contribution made out to the Plainfield Historical Society to Judith Williams, 525 West Main St., Plainfield, MA 01070. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Judith Bryan Williams

President

Membership 2019

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Jerry Little

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