



June 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

What will you remember most about the year 2020 and how will historians describe the year? If you are so inclined please send us your thoughts on the COVID 19 year and the members of the Plainfield Historical Society will compile your narratives for future generations to enjoy.

Despite COVID, 19 members of the Historical Society Board of Directors continued to meet online monthly and in person (observing COVID protocols) at the Shaw Hudson House. The weekly work on accessioning, preserving and recording artifacts in our collections continued. Our webmaster, Lori Austin, created many new blogs that can be accessed from our website (plainfieldmahistory.org) or on our Facebook page, for example: Identifying 18th & 19th artifacts; Beal's Bucket; Ox Power; Voting Rights; the town pound; Weights & Measures Cabinet. The actual location of the town pound, which Dario Coletta had been looking for, for 20 years was finally determined by Dario and Matt Stowell.

D.J. Clary and his oxen demonstration in the yard behind the Shaw Hudson House was a highlight of the year. The children who were fortunate enough to attend enjoyed a ride in the oxen cart. D. J. brought history alive with his knowledge and engaging presentation.

The old "summer kitchen" at the Shaw Hudson House has been restored & transformed into a comfortable meeting room. You will be able to see it for yourself when you come to our annual meeting Tuesday, Aug.3, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. Plainfield's historic weights and measures, which had been looking for a home for many years, are now a highlight of the meeting room, as well as, the town's daunting 18th century standing desk that was once in the Plainfield's town offices.

Our guest speaker for our annual meeting will be Plainfield's own Marc Howes. Marc, the son of Nick and Betsy Howes, was born and raised in Plainfield from 1983-2001. As a child he explored all of Plainfield's 21 square miles. His interest in maps has led to his working for the federal government at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, New Hampshire. After reading about the search for the town pound he thought that we might be interested in LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) mapping to help identify some of the long lost old mill sites, ponds, stone walls, orchards, roads and other geographical features in town. He will be sharing some of the maps that he has made by making overlays of historic maps with present day maps.

We welcome your membership in any of the following categories: Individual -\$20; Family - \$50; Friend - \$100; Patron - \$200, Benefactor - \$500+ (includes a lifetime membership in the Plainfield Historical Society). Your support will help make up for our loss of revenue because we were not able to have the annual Memorial Day Dinner and pie auction due to COVID. Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on Aug. 3, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. at the meeting room at the Shaw Hudson House.

Sincerely yours,

Judith Bryan Williams
President, Plainfield Historical Society