

# Newsletter

(508) 358-7959

[www.waylandhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.waylandhistoricalsociety.org)

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Founded in 1954

John Heckscher, Editor

The Grout-Heard House Museum, 12 Cochituate Road, Wayland, Massachusetts  
Open to the Public Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30 – Noon

## Reminders & Updates of Coming Events

### Three Eras of Wayland History

**Friday, November 21, 2014 ~~8:00 pm~~ CHANGED TO 7:30 pm**  
**Wayland High School Auditorium**

In 2013 two Wayland High School grads formed Pelham Island Pictures (PIP) and decided to honor Wayland's 375th anniversary with a documentary about Wayland. They chose three eras of our history: colonial (1638-1800), industrial (1850-1900), and modern (1950-present). Jacob Sussman and Zander Cowen have succeeded in giving us real and special Wayland history. You will see familiar faces and scenes in this very professional presentation. Jacob and Zander and many members of the cast will have refreshments with you after the film, so you can discuss your questions or comments with them. We are co-sponsoring this event with the Walden Forum. Kevin Delaney will host.

Refreshments: Mary Antes, Jane Sciacca, Nancy Boyle, Kate Jenney, Lois Davis, and Molly Faulkner

### The Annual Holiday Open House

**Sunday, December 7, 2014                      2:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**Grout-Heard House Museum**

Start the holiday season Sunday afternoon, December 7th, when the Grout-Heard House Museum welcomes the whole town to the Community Open House. Festivities will run from two to five o'clock. Once again, Wayland Garden Club members will transform the old rooms with seasonal decorations appropriate to the period of each room. Susan Coppock, Anette Lewis and Gretchen Schuler will head up this Garden Club project. Girl Scouts from all over town will make ornaments for the Stone Room alcove. There will be music, and home-made Christmas cookies at the tea table. It's a great chance to see old friends and make new ones.

Aida Gennis is chairman in charge of finding Open House hosts & hostesses for one-hour shifts covering each of our six rooms that will be on view that day, plus three front door welcomers, each with a one-hour shift. Please call 508-650-3869 if you are willing to help.

Open House Co-chairs: Aida Gennis and Molly Adams with Sally Lamprey

# Heard Farm

Gretchen Schuler

The walk-talk around Heard Farm on September 21st was well attended and so many people participated in adding what they knew of the old farm days – but some facts were left out so here we will add some information and make some corrections as well.

The first is about the flooding which is such an interesting topic articulated in many law suits over the period of 60 to 70 years. The flooding occurred along the banks of the Sudbury River, which only rose to cover all the marsh hay – not acres and acres of fields. However the marsh hay was a lucrative product and important part of the local farmers' economy. Thus the fields in which we walked were not flooded, only the banks along the Sudbury River causing the local farmers to band together to try to change the dam activity in Billerica that was causing the flooding.

Charles Campbell who had married a Heard daughter, was the proprietor of the farm from the mid 1800s. The Campbells lived in the double house that is on the north side of Pelham Island Road east of Heard Road where the public access to the Farm is presently located. Part of the house is reported to have been part of an earlier Heard house that was moved here in ca. 1832. A large barn was situated across from the white house. And down a lane behind the barn in one of the eastern most fields was a cottage built by Charles Campbell that was later used as a town canoe club. The 20th century owners of the Heard Farm were the Cutlers – hence many refer to it as Cutler Farm. Sam Cutler (1886-1962) bought and combined the Heard Farms and ran a dairy farm here until his death. Cutler's widow eventually sold the farm to Sudbury Valley Trustees in 1970, who sold it to the town soon thereafter.



*The aerial view of the Heard Farm is looking north, northwest with Heard Pond near the top left and the Sudbury River running east of the pond. The Heard Farm is in the upper right part of the aerial.*

Two houses near Heard Pond remain today to tell about the Heard families who lived on the Island. A house built in about 1715 was purchased by Richard Heard in 1779 and was home to Heards for several generations until the late 1800s, when it became known as the Sears House.



Stone-Heard-Sears House – 19th C.



After 1887 remodeling – 21st C.

The Thomas Heard House was built in about 1793. In 1855 it and adjoining farm land were purchased by Robert Erwin after whom the road is named. In the mid-20th century Cutler owned the house, farmed nearby fields and family members lived here into the 1970s.



Thomas Heard House with additions – 21st C.

## Sadly, a Beech Tree is Gone

In the Sept-Oct Newsletter a photo of the two beech trees that stood regally in the front yard of the Grout-Heard House Museum for many years clearly showed that they were dying from the top down. Reluctantly, the Board of Managers decided to have one of the diseased beech trees removed. This October 16th photo shows the trunk lying on the lawn adjacent to the recently resurfaced driveway. The fate of the remaining beech has not yet been determined.



Kathy Heckscher photo

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## 2014 DATES TO REMEMBER

### Date-Time/Place

### Event/Presenter

Friday, November 21, ~~8:00 pm~~ 7:30 pm  
Wayland High School Auditorium

Film - 3 Eras of Wayland History  
Jacob Sussman & Zander Cowen  
Pelham Island Pictures

Sunday, December 7, 2:00 - 5:00 pm  
Grout-Heard House Museum

Holiday Open House  
Aida Gennis & Molly Adams with Sally Lamprey  
Co-chairs

**Thank you for supporting the Grout-Heard House Museum!**