

Newsletter

(508) 358-7959

www.waylandhistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 38, No. 5, May-Jun 2015

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

!!! ALERT !!! Change of Subject & Venue !!! ALERT !!!

"Dear Mrs. ~~Walter B.~~ JESSICA Henderson"

Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 3:00 pm

Wayland High School lecture hall, South Building; follow the signs

Some of us women remember when using our first name and not our husband's when addressed was still considered unconventional; yet, many women a century and more ago did this and so much more to further women's rights. With the help of members of the Wayland Historical Society, Wayland High School teacher Kevin Delaney and students of the Wayland High School History Project team reveal the subject of their newest local history project on May 3. Delaney HAD planned to do a general survey of what was going on in Wayland during the years of the Great War or World War I, but his attention was caught early on by the compelling story of Jessica Henderson. Our region is well known for its extensive collection of reformers over the years, but one who was somehow forgotten is Wayland's own Jessica Lord Cox Henderson, who moved to town in the early 20th century and proceeded to raise a family. Join Kevin Delaney, students and the Wayland Historical Society for some storytelling about a one-of-a-kind firebrand whose life will make you wonder how she was ever overlooked.

Refreshments: Dottie Lee, Joanne Davis, Kathy Heckscher & Molly Faulkner

PLEASE NOTE: This program, originally called OVER HERE AND OVER THERE: WORLD WAR I WAYLAND and scheduled for the Wayland Public Library, will be held instead in the lecture hall at Wayland High School. WORLD WAR I WAYLAND will be the subject of a program in 2015-16.

Historical Society Initiates High School Awards

Thanks to the efforts of Kate Jenney and Aida Gennis, in cooperation with the high school awards committee the Society has initiated the following two awards to be presented to qualifying candidates:

Junior Book Award

The Wayland Historical Society Book Award is given to a high school junior who has demonstrated an inquisitive and innovative approach to the study of history. The candidate will receive a book chosen by the chair of the history department and a certificate provided by the high school guidance department. Date for presentation: Thursday, June 11, 2015, at 7:00 pm

[continued overleaf]

Senior Award

The Wayland Historical Society Award recognizes a high school senior who has demonstrated an abiding interest in United States history and has made significant contributions to the high school and the community of Wayland. The candidate will receive the book, *Wayland A to Z*, edited by Evelyn Wolfson and Dick Hoyt and a \$250 gift card given by the Society. A gift certificate will be provided by the high school guidance department. Date for presentation: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Book Signing by Evelyn Wolfson

Evelyn will be on hand at the Wayland Public Library on Wednesday, May 6th from 7 to 9 pm to sign copies of her new book, *Legendary Locals of Wayland*, which will be available for sale there courtesy of the Wayland Historical Society.

Wayland 3rd Graders to Learn Town's Role in Revolutionary War

During the month of May, the Education Committee is presenting a program on our town's role in the Revolutionary War to all the third graders in Wayland as a way for them to learn about local participation in the war. After coming to the Grout- Heard House for our presentation, the classes will visit the Minuteman National Park and see the sites where the Sudbury militia fought.

As part of our program students spend an hour at North Cemetery, where they locate graves and learn about the Revolutionary War heroes who are buried there. They can recognize familiar Wayland names and learn that Sudbury sent many men to war.

Roger Backman loans us his Minuteman outfit so we can show the clothing and gear the patriots wore, and each student gets to hold the 1740 English fowling piece and see how difficult it would be to march to Concord and back with heavy equipment.

Teachers Joanne Davis, Jan Dunn, Kathy Finch, Kathy Heckscher, Claudia Heller, Marney Ives, Kate Jenney, and Jane Sciacca prepare and tell the story of April 19, 1775 with emphasis on what would have been happening in Sudbury that day.

Sebastian Miniatures

At the conclusion of the Society's Annual Meeting Prescott W. ("Woody") Baston, husband of Society Secretary Margery Baston, will give a brief presentation on Sebastian Miniature collectables and how they relate to Wayland. The Sebastian Miniatures business was started in 1938 -- and Woody and his dad were the only sculptors. A major focus was "Americana" (historical figures and more) -- and it became a national "collectable" in the 1970s and 1980s (when collecting was popular). A book was written on Sebastians at that time. Sebastian Miniatures have been compared to Hummels -- and have been called the American version. The last studio for Sebastian Miniatures was right across the street from the Grout-Heard House Museum, in their home! Stay awhile after the meeting to hear Woody!

Getting to Know the Society's Board of Managers

At a recent Board of Managers meeting it was suggested including biographical summaries of the society's officers. John Heckscher volunteered to introduce himself to the membership:

JOHN L. HECKSCHER

John grew up in suburban Philadelphia, graduated from Princeton (1958) and Johns Hopkins (1959) with a Masters in Electrical Engineering and as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. His first (and only) military assignment was with the Air Force Research Lab at Hanscom AFB. There his duties included extensive travels outside the US, including the installation of a trans-European radio direction-finding system based in Turkey and Sweden, and two six-month temporary tours in the Pacific observing radio emissions associated with the last US atmospheric atomic tests in 1962. He helped design a novel long-wire transmitting antenna, to be towed behind high altitude aircraft to enable secure and hardened (from nuclear after-effects) low-frequency radio communications between airborne KC-135 command posts and B-52s flying over Alaska. He was honorably discharged in 1967 after 8 years of military service.

In 1968 he became a civilian researcher for the Air Force at Hanscom, where he pursued solutions to many varied operational problems associated with radio transmissions and static electrical issues on board aircraft. After Apollo 12 was struck by lightning during launch in 1969, he and his co-workers designed a method using military mortar shells to rapidly uncoil and propel thin stainless steel wires into thunderheads, effectively connecting the cloud to the ground and thus simulating the Saturn rocket and its ionized plume. From 1990 - 1998 he was Program Director for HAARP, a joint Air Force-Navy effort to build a state-of-the art ionospheric research facility in Alaska, with primary responsibility for overseeing creation of the Environmental Impact Statement. In 1994 the Federal Executive Board, Boston awarded him the Excellence in Government Award as the Outstanding Professional Employee. In 1998 he was promoted to an administrative position supervising a team of 15 scientists and military personnel performing studies to characterize the effects of the high altitude atmosphere (the ionosphere) on communication, navigation and radar satellites in situ.

Retiring in 2002 after a total of 42 years of service to the government he was presented with the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award (an obscure honor, absent monetary value). Now he volunteers at the Wayland Council on Aging driving Meals on Wheels, helping town seniors with minor home repairs, and overseeing the town's collection of medical equipment. He sings with the Golden Tones chorus, which performs up to 50 concerts a year at nursing homes, eldercare centers, homeless shelters, and other venues. He coordinates the Retired Men's Association volunteer efforts with Parmenter VNA, which has included painting offices and hospice rooms, hanging pictures, assembling furniture, building shelves, and helping to fashion advertising billboards for their annual fund-raising auction. As you know, he also is your Newsletter scribe, and chairs the membership function of the Society. Tennis a time or two each week helps keep his joints limber. Keeping up with his very active wife, Kathy, and their four grandchildren helps, too!

Wayland Historical Society
P. O. Box 56
Wayland MA 01778

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Wayland MA 01778
Permit #28

2015 DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Date-Time/Place</u>	<u>Event/Presenter</u>
Sunday, May 3, 3:00 pm Grout-Heard House Museum	World War I Wayland Kevin Delaney & WHS History Project
NOTE CHANGE	
Sunday, May 3, 3:00 pm WHS Lecture Hall, South Bldg	Dear Mrs. Walter B. JESSICA Henderson Kevin Delaney & WHS History Project Students
Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 pm Wayland Public Library	"Legendary Locals of Wayland" Evelyn Wolfson Book Signing
Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 pm Grout-Heard House Museum	Annual Meeting / Sebastian Miniatures Prescott W. ("Woody") Baston

Thank you for supporting the Grout-Heard House Museum!