

Newsletter

(508) 358-7959

www.waylandhistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 39, No. 2, Nov - Dec 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

Changing Landscapes and Floral Records — From Thoreau's Time to Today

In recent years, much academic attention and press has been given to Concord's historical record. Thoreau's descriptive and detailed accounts of his town's flora and landscapes inspired generations of lay botanists, naturalists, and scholars to revisit, expand, document, and analyze this dynamic and changing landscape for more than 170 years since. How have the landscape and flora changed and what has and is influencing these changes? Who are some of the principal explorers, record-keepers, and scientists—past and present—who have played a role in creating and maintaining this venerable botanical legacy? How can this unusually deep botanical record inform us today? Naturalist and photographer Cherrie Corey has been working at the heart of this story for the past several years. On Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2:30 pm she will share with us her field explorations and observations, collaborations, and intimate photographs that reveal an at once historic and living landscape that is rapidly changing, and relies on our deeper understanding and careful stewardship. We are pleased to have our wonderful Library co-sponsoring this program. Refreshments by Mary Antes.

According to her LinkedIn profile, Ms. Corey is a 1976 BA honors graduate of Marlboro College (VT), majoring in psychology and anthropology, with a minor in botany. From 1978-1983 she was Education Director for the New England Wild Flower Society/Garden in the Woods. From 1984-1993 she worked for Harvard University Art Museums in management and human resource positions. In 1995 she became Executive Director, Harvard University Museum of Cultural and Natural History, where she directed exhibition planning and public programs. She formed Corey Consulting Group in 1999 to provide capacity-building resources for non-profit environmental and cultural organizations. Since 2008 she has been Consulting Field Naturalist, Teacher, and Photographer at Sense of Place - Concord.

Why the Wayland Historical Society?

John Heckscher

Last year at about this time I watched, enthralled, Ken Burn's documentary "The Roosevelts: an Intimate History," I was fascinated to then read Daniel Burnett's guest column about this PBS series in the MetroWest Daily News of Sunday, September 21, 2014. Citing surveys that present example after example of national amnesia regarding the Roosevelt legacies -- legacies that are an essential part of America's story -- Burnett suggests that we should be concerned that many of the wonders of our nation's history are fading from our collective memory. He places part of the blame on the nation's colleges and universities, few of which require courses in American history or government. He concludes "We have... an obligation to remember our past....but if we forget the significance of [historical events] we will neither understand the present nor be ready for the future."

In our historic Town of Wayland, legacies of our predecessors abound. They are found in our street names, on commemorative monuments, on gravestones, in historic buildings and homes, and in the written record preserved in our library and Town archives.

How many residents of Wayland know if they live in an historic house, or why their street is named as it is; that Wayland was at once both a farming community and the location of a shoe factory; the history of the railroad corridor and engine turntable; that Cochituate was once a separate town with a trolley connecting with Wayland Center; that a Wayland High School teacher was suspected of being a communist and fired; or how there came to be a visiting nurses association, Parmenter, in our town?

This is not to suggest that Wayland's legacies rise to importance similar to the national level, but they can provide the context and understanding of how our community evolved from the past to the present, to give us a basis for future decisions and actions. Often in cooperation with our High School and our neighbor the Wayland Free Public Library, the Society strives to discover and promote important and relevant facts concerning thoughts and actions of our predecessors. Indeed, giving exposure and voice to Wayland's past is an essential part of why the Historical Society exists.

Membership Update

Sixty-three memberships have renewed for FY2016, thank you! The Society has not heard from 86 memberships from FY2015, 8 from FY2014, and 20 from FY2013. Eighteen memberships from FY2012 and earlier are still being carried, although the Society's by-laws suggest termination after two years of non-renewal. There are 65 Life memberships.

Dues are used primarily for current operating expenses, including the production and mailing of this bi-monthly Newsletter. If you know you haven't responded, please take a moment to locate your Program Booklet, extract the Membership Application/Renewal envelope enclosed therein, write a check and mail it to us. We would appreciate it. Missing the envelope? Not to worry, we will count you in if you send just your check! Dues and membership categories are unchanged from last year.

Our mailing address is Wayland Historical Society, P. O. Box 56, Wayland MA 01778.

Wayland's First Burial Ground -- Summary of Preliminary Results of the Preservation Management Plan for North Cemetery

The Town of Wayland hired Barbara Donohue, Historical Archaeologist and a Specialist in preservation of old burial grounds, to prepare a Preservation Management Plan for North Cemetery -- the first Town Center of the Sudbury Plantation and the first burying ground for Sudbury and Wayland. The plan includes three key components: documentary research on land use, a conditions assessment, and a ground-penetrating radar survey. On October 4, 2015 Ms. Donohue reviewed some of her findings in her talk to about 50 attendees at the North Cemetery on Rte. 27.

Elisa Scola summarized Ms. Donohue's talk for the Board of Managers at their October 8 meeting. Elisa was able to tell us that the initial settlement was closer to Rte. 27 than first thought, and the original buildings were not where the current sign indicates. Elisa said Ms. Donohue mentioned the "cathedral pines" depicted on an historic post card, and a foot path discovered by the ground-penetrating radar survey that no longer is evident above ground. Roger Backman volunteered that 56 local people who fought in the Revolutionary War are buried in North Cemetery.

The full report is about 200 pages; it informs us how we can better preserve the cemetery long term. And there is a list of individual stones — with guidance on how best to repair the historic record. There was general agreement that there should be a copy of the full report resident in the GHM.

Elisa passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in forming a committee to be known as Friends of the North Cemetery. You can sign up, too. Contact Elisa at 508-276-1188 or email her at cpandes@yahoo.com.

Library Warrant Article 6 at Special Town Meeting

Also at the October 8 board meeting, Aida Gennis, Chair, Board of Library Trustees, provided details regarding Article 6, a proposed study of the feasibility of expanding and renovating the current library building, and of building a new library on a different site. As an adjacent neighbor, the Trustees would like the Society to be aware of possible changes that could affect the GHM site. You are urged to learn what is being proposed and then attend the Monday, November 9th Special Town Meeting to let your views be heard.

Holiday Open House

Plan to make a stop at our annual festive Open House at the Museum on December 6th, from 2-5 pm. The entire House will be open for view, with docents in each room. Aida Gennis has recruited many volunteers to serve as docents, tea pourers and punch servers. Joanne Davis and Kathy Heckscher have arranged for Christmas cookies and other baked goodies, and musicians from Wayland High School will provide entertainment. Sally Lamprey will lead the kitchen staff. Rooms will be decorated as would be appropriate for each room's period by Wayland Garden Club members, led by co-chairs Susan Coppock and Gretchen Schuler. Enjoy the hand crafted decorations by Wayland Girl Scouts who will be decorating the alcove in the Stone Room. Their theme this year is the 'Animal Kingdom'

N.B. The four-burner range in the GHM kitchen is functional, and will be available to heat water for tea and the post party cleanup, and keep goodies warm in the oven. There will no longer be a necessity to carry hot water to the Museum, as in prior years.

Wayland Historical Society

P. O. Box 56

Wayland MA 01778

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Wayland MA 01778

Permit #28

2015 - 2016 DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Date-Time/Place</u>	<u>Event/Presenter</u>
Sunday, Nov 15, 2:30 pm Wayland Public Library	Changing Landscapes and Floral Records -- From Thoreau's Time to Today Cherrie Corey
Sunday, Dec 6, 2 - 5 pm Grout-Heard House Museum	Holiday Open House (Many Volunteers - Thank You!)
Sunday, Jan 10, 2:30 pm GHHM (or Library)	Talking Trash! Molly Faulkner and Stephen Kadlik

Thank you for supporting the Grout-Heard House Museum!