
WAYLAND MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



PHOTO BY GREG DALE, WM&HS BOARD MEMBER



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

WAYLAND
MUSEUM
&
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

7:00 PM: BUSINESS MEETING

Join us for our annual review and organizational updates.

7:30 PM: SAMUEL PARRIS: VILLAIN OR VICTIM?

GUEST SPEAKER: MARILYNNE K. ROACH

Author of "Six Women of Salem" and

"The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle"

FIRST PARISH WAYLAND

225 BOSTON POST RD

WAYLAND, MA 01778

First Parish of Wayland meeting room and on Zoom

<https://2026wmhsannualmeeting.eventbrite.com/>

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| 1. Welcome | Sherry Anne Bryant |
| 2. Presidents Report | Sherry Anne Bryant |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | Christopher LaFarge |
| 4. Trustees of Funds Report | Lynn Trimby |
| 5. 2026 Annual Meeting Minutes (vote) | Mary Farley |
| 6. Executive Director's Comments | Scarlett Hoey |
| 7. Curator's Comments | Kay Gardner-Westcott |
| 8. Slate of Officers, Directors and Trustees (vote) | Vicki LaFarge |
| 9. Adjourn for Program | |

Annual Report

- President's Annual Report Sherry Anne Bryant
- Treasurer's and Trustee of Funds for the Annual Report
- Nominating Report
- Executive Director's Annual Report Scarlett Hoey
- Curator's Annual Report Kay Gardner-Westcott
- Collections Committee Sherry Anne Bryant
- Education Committee Gretchen Schuler
- Program Committee Elisa Scola
- Social Media Engagement
- Membership Committee Vicki LaFarge & Gretchen Schuler
- Annual Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of May 14, 2025 Annual Meeting Mary Farley

President's Report

We are in the midst of celebrating our country's 250th anniversary, including the history of Wayland from its earliest days. Jonathan Barkan, keynote speaker for HistoryFest in April, noted that "America needs historians. It's always good to look back and important to look forward to the future - where we have come from to where we are now." I think this is true for most places, and especially our town, and that is why it is important that our Wayland Historical Society flourishes and works diligently to bring history to life through the Grout-Heard House Museum, our programs, and our storytelling.

Wayland has so much history! We need amateur historians of all ages. People who are interested in our history and are curious, who wonder about artifacts and how they were used, who enjoy the search into events or 'things', who can document findings, and all who can tell the stories that contribute to the intrinsic character of Wayland, our culture, history, and community spirit that distinguish us from any other place. Wayland needs you!

During the Revolution, we were a hotbed of patriot activity. Residents stopped importing and buying British goods and decided to defy British law by choosing their own militia officers. They established training fields for the local militia and minutemen, a 9-acre site on the east side of the river (now a small triangle where Glezen Lane meets Training Field Road), a site on River Road for the west side of the river (near the current Sudbury town line), and the Loker farm in Cochituate for training Loker's Light Horse cavalry of 21 men. On April 19, riders and soldiers gathered in front of the meetinghouse_ 136 men from the east side joining with established local companies from the west side, totaling 348 men_ to march toward Concord and Lexington. Note our annual report cover which depicts that re-enactment this year, thanks to Greg Dale.

Women on the home front managed the farms and family stores, produced homespun, made clothing, blankets, and bullets for the soldiers, engaged in political boycotts and raised funds for the troops. Men on the home front continued training to protect homes and the ammunition stores. They all risked their lives, their property, defending their ideals of liberty and self-determination. We owe them a lot...

We need you! A special thanks to you who support us with your membership, your attendance at our programs, your words of encouragement, your stepping forward when asked to help. Your contributions make us more effective and successful and encourage us to tell our "story"!

President's Report... cont.

Our Executive Director, Scarlett Hoey, has completed her first year and a half at the helm. Maternal leave and extended family time afterward have limited her presence in the museum. She has been creating more community contacts, a variety of new programs and opportunities, new avenues of PR, creating and printing our newsletter, and applying for grants to support our efforts and improvements at the museum. Thank you, Scarlett, and we look forward to this coming year.

Kay Gardner-Westcott, our Curator, works tirelessly for our museum. We are grateful for the wide variety of things she does. Her love of history, curiosity about unusual items, knowledge of research techniques, skill in finding answers to tough questions, hours given above and beyond, all are incredibly valuable to our success. Thank you very much, Kay.

We recognize and thank our three Trustees of Funds - Cliff Lewis, Jon Weintraub, and Lynn Trimby - who served diligently to watch over our investments which currently provide an important part of our financial base for operating the Society and the Grout-Heard House Museum. Each is completing a one-year term.

We appreciate the effort and hours of work put in by Vicki LaFarge, Mary Farley, and Christopher LaFarge, our Vice President, Secretary, and Interim Treasurer, respectively. Each of our officers is appointed to serve a one-year term, so we are grateful for their contributions to the Society and their continuing service. Thank you so much!

We would like to acknowledge the participation of Joanne Berry and Greg Dale who are completing terms on the Board of Managers. Thankfully, they have both agreed to continue for another three-year term. We value the contribution of each one to our success.

This has been a busy year. Informative interesting programs, activities, and events__ all have offered us opportunities to learn about people, places, and times in our town's history. You saw us at the Apple Fest at the Wayside Inn, Wayland Festival at Town Center, Lunar Festival, Hannah Willams Playground, Loker Elementary School, Girl Scout badge sessions. We created a weekend fundraising exhibit and silent auction at the Stitched in Time: Quilt Exhibit. A special thank you to all who helped research the quilters, donors, and parents of each of the quilted items. We are ready to send the results to the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell. A special showing of our wedding dresses highlighted the Red, White & 'I Do' exhibit. While these dresses are out of storage, we are photographing, analyzing, and documenting in Catalogit (our new database) for each stain, tear, open seam, or unusual detail. Last fall's displays at the Wayland Free Library introduced themes exhibiting items from our collections. The exhibit of our seldom seen lovely and complete silver collection in December was a special treat. The display of a diorama of our historical railroad center built by Steve Angelini created a rare moment to view his impressive work and a "bird's-eye view" of what our railroad center looked like in its heyday.

President's Report cont.

The Holiday Open House, visited by nearly 200 people, was delightful. Guests enjoyed tea and goodies after meandering through the rooms of the museum. Kudos to Aida Gennis and Joanne Berry, and their crew of volunteers, for planning and carrying out this special event. As always, the Wayland Garden Club made wonderful and creative holiday arrangements in each room. Everyone enjoyed the music provided by the Wayland High School string quartet and choral group. We look forward to December 6, 2026!

A special project continues underway in our basement. I really appreciate the tremendous help of my painting crew, Greg Dale, Paul Doerr, Vicki LaFarge, and Art Jahnke, who painted the walls in the main basement with special moisture resistant paint. We still have the bay window and kitchen extension to do, plus the basement floor. When completed, artifacts can be reorganized and stored effectively. If you can assist me with this work, please let me know.

“What we do today becomes our history for tomorrow.” We have a long-range vision for our Wayland Museum & Historical Society, so we have more to accomplish as we look to the coming year. More exciting programs and events are being planned, research on collection items continues, “behind the scenes” daily work is never-ending, and care of the museum and its contents is ongoing. We encourage and welcome your interest, participation, and support in projects, programs and events. If you have a passion for history, old things, or Wayland trivia, come work with us. Drop by the museum on Tuesday or Thursday morning or call for an appointment to see where your skills and interests might help us with our work! We need you!

For our annual meeting program this year, we welcome Marilynne K. Roach, an independent researcher, writer, and illustrator. She has delved into the 1692 Salem trials for nearly half a century and still finds new information cropping up in unexpected places. She was one of the sub-editors contributing to the definitive Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt, a member of the Gallows Hill Group that verified Proctor's Ledge as the true location of the 1692 hangings (hailed by Archaeology Magazine as one of the top ten discoveries of 2016), and has authored several articles and books about the Salem Witch Trials including The Salem Witch Trials: a Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege and Six Women of Salem.

Marilynne will present “Samuel Parris: Villain or Victim”. The Society holds a preservation restriction on the Noyes-Parris House, the oldest house in town, where Samuel eventually lived. How did he end up in Wayland after his experiences in Salem? Come and find out!

Annual meeting is Wednesday, May 27, First Parish Church at 7 p.m.

Sherry Anne Bryant

President
Board of Directors
President@waylandmuseum.org

Treasurer's Report

For the fiscal year ending 4/30/2026, the Wayland Historical Society had Operating Revenue of \$18,613 from operations plus an \$82,500 draw from the General Endowment. This draw exceeded the planned allowance from the endowment for the fiscal year. In November 2024, the Board of Managers approved hiring an Executive Director. At that time, the Board recognized that additional funds from the Endowment (Capital Budget) would be needed for several years to cover compensation for this position until additional revenue could be generated through grants, donations, and programs. After Operating Expenses of \$95,273, the operating surplus was \$5,839. In addition to our Operating Expenses, funds were expended from the House & Grounds Maintenance Fund, the Davis Fund, and the Conservation Fund to support speakers, to purchase humidity monitors, and to moistureproof the basement.

For fiscal year 2027, the Operating Budget calls for an increase in both projected income and expenses as the organization plans increased activity and growth. The increases in expected expenses are driven primarily by staff compensation and inflation. The Board continues to recognize that the current level of spending is not sustainable without new sources of revenue. It is, therefore, focused on identifying and implementing additional ways to generate grant, donation, and program revenue, such as through the recent successful Historic House Tour. The Board is also working to increase the visibility and outreach of the organization, needed to enable us to launch a successful Capital Campaign at some point in the future.

As reported by the Trustees, the value of our Endowment increased significantly over the 2025-26 fiscal year. Financial markets, although very positive for our investments this year, continue to be volatile due to changes in government policies and uncertainty regarding the economic outlook and the direction of interest rates and inflation.

Regardless of the economic outlook, our investments remain conservatively structured and should continue to provide solid long-term results.

Christopher LaFarge
Interim Treasurer

Annual Report of the Trustees of Funds

This is the Annual Report of The Trustees of Funds of the Wayland Historical Society for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2026. The Trustees of Funds have custody of, and management responsibility with respect to, the Endowment Funds of the Society. The Operating Funds of the Society are under the management and control of the Board of Managers.

1. The total Endowment Value on April 30th was \$1,288,358. It includes three investments at Vanguard totaling \$1,268,572, and a money market account at Middlesex Savings Bank totaling \$19,786.

2. The 12-month return of the Vanguard portfolio exceeded 18%, due primarily to favorable financial markets. As of April 30th, the overall asset allocation of the Vanguard Portfolio was 58% equities, 33% fixed income and 9% cash reserves. In line with a policy adopted in 2017, the Trustees always keep in cash reserves an amount estimated by the Treasurer to meet the requirements of the organization for the next 12 months.

3. The Endowment includes four donor-designated/special purpose funds with the following balances as of April 30th: the Joanne Davis Education Program Fund with \$31,566; the Conservation Fund with \$101,967; and the House & Grounds Maintenance Fund with \$297,607. The Unrestricted General Endowment Fund had a balance of \$857,218.

4. In past years, the Trustees have authorized a draw of up to 4% from the Endowment for Society expenses. However, in FY 2026, in recognition of increased staff and salary expenses, the Trustees authorized an additional amount of up to \$30,000 for Operations, for a total of \$61,000. The actual amount needed for FY2026 was \$82,500, which represents a 7.2% withdrawal rate.

5. In April the Trustees met and approved a draw from the Endowment for the upcoming fiscal year of 4%, or \$46,521, based on a 3-year rolling average. It would be apportioned as follows: \$1,070 for the Education Fund, \$3,443 for the Conservation Fund, \$10,002 for the House and Grounds Fund and \$32,006 for the General Operating Fund.

6. The Trustees recognize that amount that has been approved probably will not be sufficient to cover this year's expenses and are open to further discussions with the Board of Managers about the amount of the draw based on additional information about the FY2027 budget and revenue plans.

7. Thank you to Trustees Cliff Lewis and Jonathan Weintraub for their work this year.

Trustees of Funds
Lynn Trimby, Chair
Cliff Lewis and Jon Weintraub

Nominating Committee Report for 2026-2027

The Wayland Historical Society, also known as the Wayland Museum & Historical Society, is governed by a Board of Managers made up of Officers and Directors. Endowment funds are invested and managed by a board of independent Trustees of Funds. Society members present at the annual meeting elect the Officers, Directors, and Trustees of Funds. The Board of Managers appoints Committee Chairs.

Each year, those present at the Annual Meeting vote on all open positions, including all Officers and the Trustees of Funds, and Directors. The Nominating Committee is very pleased to present the following nominees, along with their biographical notes, and their proposed positions. The Committee has identified a candidate to fill the Treasurer position for 2026-2027 with a start date later in summer.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Officers (One-Year Term) 2026-2027

President ~ Sherry Anne Bryant

Vice-President ~ Vicki LaFarge

Secretary ~ Mary Farley

Interim Treasurer ~

Directors (Three-Year Terms)

Neil Gordon (2024-27)

Art Jahnke (2024-27)

Joanne Berry (2026-2029)

Greg Dale (2026-29) one year remaining in term vacated

Elisa Scola (2025-28)

Michele Davidson (2025-2028)

Trustees of Funds

Cliff Lewis

Jon Weintraub

Interim Treasurer

Nominating Committee: Neil Gordon, Art Jahnke, Vicki LaFarge. Scarlett Hoey, ex-officio.

Nominating Report Cont.

Biographies of those to be voted to the Board of Managers and Trustees of Funds

Sherry Anne Bryant – President. Sherry Anne has been a resident of Wayland for 55 years. She was the Assistant Editor of the Wayland Cookbook “375 Years and Still Cooking,” and designed and built a float for the 375th Parade. She was Cubmaster of Pack 88 Cub Scouts based at Claypit Hill School for 10 years, Popcorn Colonel of the Knox Trail Council, and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. At Community United Methodist Church in Cochituate Village, Sherry Anne chaired the chancel renovation committee and created a script with choral selections for the Musical Matinee program celebrating its Sesquicentennial Anniversary. Sherry Anne is a longtime member of the WM&HS and has volunteered with developing programs, researching items, and serves as Collection Committee chairperson. She is a National Cherry Pie Baking Champion, has a Bachelor’s degree from Shepherd University and a Master’s from the University of Connecticut in Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts. She previously was an Assistant Professor in the Merchandising Program at Garland Junior College in Boston. She is currently a member of the Wayland Historical Commission. Her family owned Mountain View Farm in WV including the 1854 Washington Gold house and the 1760 Joseph Rippey log cabin. Her Bryant line in Wayland begins with a great-grandfather, Thomas II, living in Wayland in the 1720’s.

Vicki LaFarge – Vice President. Vicki and her family moved to Wayland in 1989. Her professional career was at Bentley College as an Associate Professor of Management and Chair of the Management Department for 10 years before becoming Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and then, Associate Provost. She was the recipient of the Bentley’s Adarnian Award for Teaching Excellence, the Advisor of the Year Award, and the Martin Luther King Diversity Award. Vicki earned a Masters in Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Management and a PhD. in Organizational Behavior from Yale University. In Wayland, Vicki served on the Board of the Wayland Public Schools Foundation and the Friends of the Wayland Public Library. She was also a member of the Library’s Planning Committee.

Mary Farley – Secretary. Mary moved to Wayland in 2013 when she and her husband purchased the Mark Sibley House, two doors down from the Grout-Heard House Museum. She has had a lifelong interest in old homes, growing up visiting historic homes and sites with her history-buff parents. She has enjoyed learning about the history of Wayland, and has a keen interest in helping to preserve and share the history and beauty of our town. She studied English at Penn State, and after careers in journalism and teaching, took a left turn into landscape design. She now works as an account manager at a landscape firm. As Secretary, Mary will continue as one of the Officers.

Nominating Report Cont.

Joanne Mazzarelli Berry – Director. Joanne grew up in Milford Massachusetts and graduated from Regis College, Weston, MA with a degree in Political Science. After graduation and a summer in Europe, she lived in Washington, DC where she worked for a law firm. Joanne received a Master's degree in Political Science from Boston College and a University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Fellowship that entailed being assigned to work for State Senator John W. Olver (D-Amherst) who later was elected to Congress. She remained at the State House for eight years rising to the ranks of Chief Administrative Assistant. While staying at home to care for her two sons, she was offered a part-time consulting job with Congressman Chester G. Atkins (D-Concord). Her career then led to real estate where she has worked for over 40 years specializing in the Western Suburbs of Boston. Joanne has lived in Wayland 47 years and is married to Dennis Berry, Esq., former Selectman and Town Moderator. Throughout her children's school years she was involved in the Wayland Schools, is a member of the Boston College Council for Women, Newton-Wellesley Hospital Overseer for Life and plays the French horn in the Sudbury Valley New Horizons Band. As a member of the Wayland Historical Society Board, she has co-chaired the Holiday Open House for the last 2 years. She enjoys reading, knitting, traveling and spending time at their summer home in Rhode Island.

Greg Dale – Director. Greg is an accomplished product development leader with over 30 years of experience in the medical device, in-vitro diagnostics, and biotechnology industries. Greg serves as Vice President of Product Development at Sherlock Biosciences, a Boston-based startup revolutionizing home diagnostics using CRISPR DNA technology. Greg's entrepreneurial spirit led him to found a company specializing in high-speed photographic equipment. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech and is an inventor with 36 issued patents. A Wayland resident for the past decade, Greg lives in the Zachariah Briant House, serves on the Wayland Historic District Commission and has contributed his photographic skills documenting Historical Society events.

Michele Davidson – Director. Michele Davidson and her husband moved to Wayland in 2001, before their first child was born, and into their current house, built in 1823 (and located next to the Grout Heard House), in 2004. She has held former board positions at Gore Place in Waltham, MA, the vestry at St. Peter's, where she coordinated and led the Church School, and as secretary for the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation in Thoreau, NM, an outdoor education summer camp. A former elementary school teacher, she has maintained a strong interest in both history and education. She looks forward to helping build and support the educational programs of the Wayland Museum and Historic Society, a cause that is close to her heart.

Neil Gordon – Director. Long-time Wayland resident and member of the Wayland Historical Society, Neil has a B.S. from Dickinson College, an M.C.R.P. in Energy & Environmental Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, and is the recently retired CEO of the Discovery Museum in Acton, MA. He currently serves as a director of the Historical Society and on the Long-Range Planning Committee. Neil is in his second term as a director.

Nominating Report Cont.

Art Jahnke – Director. Art and his wife, Nancy Zerbey, moved to Wayland in 1996 with their three children. Art started his career as a journalist at the Real Paper, next as writer and editor at Boston Magazine for 12 years, and an editor at CIO Magazine, an IDG publication about technology and business, for 10 years. At Boston University for 14 years Art was assistant vice president of Marketing and Communications, editing the University's daily news website, BU Today, Bostonia (alumni) magazine, and other publications. He taught journalism at Suffolk University, Emerson College and Harvard Summer School. In Wayland, Art has served on the Wayland Reads committee of the library and for the past year has edited the WM&HS newsletter.

Elisa Scola – Director. Elisa and her family moved to Wayland 17 years ago from France. After moving to Wayland Elisa delved into volunteering – first for the Wayland Historical Commission of which she served as Chair for many years; the Community Preservation Committee, a Library Trustee and a term as an Historical Society Director several years ago. She also volunteered for the PTO in the Wayland Schools and was a Girl Scouts Troop leader. Elisa has served as president of the Wayland Garden Club. She conceived of and organized the Dollhouse Open House in March. She will be chair of the Program Committee. Elisa graduated from Wellesley College and Boston College for her JD.

Trustee of Funds

Cliff Lewis - Trustee of Funds. A current Trustee of Funds for the Historical Society, Cliff is a 45-year resident of Wayland. He is a member of the Wayland Route 20 South Landfill Visioning Committee and has served as Chair of the Wayland Board of Public Works and the Town's OPEB Advisory Committee. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. Cliff is gainfully employed as a financial analyst at Traub Capital Management LLC, a registered investment adviser.

Jon Weintraub - Trustee of Funds. Jon is a two-time Wayland resident. He grew up in Wayland and graduated from Wayland High School class of 1990. Growing up, Jon had a deep interest in both Wayland's history and its conservation lands - he still retains th books and maps of Wayland that he collected in his youth. Jon and his wife Emily returned to Wayland to raise their family. A graduate of Bates College, Jon worked in the equity capital markets as an analyst, and institutional broker and managed equity sales and trading desks. Currently, Jon consults with private and public companies. Jon is also a USCG licensed Captain. He has served as a Trustee of Funds for several years.

History Belongs to Everyone

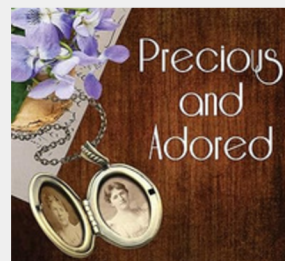
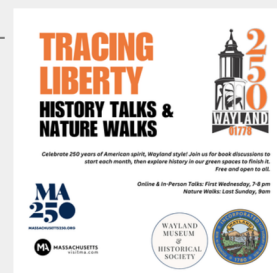
This was a year of continuing to get out the front door and welcome folks inside.

We tabled at the Lunar New Year for the second year in a row, debuted at WaterFest at the Metropolitan Waterworks Museum with a return planned for this June, joined the Dudley Pond Ice Cream Social, and brought history to the Wayland Festival and the Wayside Inn Apple Fest. We're continuing to build our partnerships, like with Arts Wayland. I invite you to come see the summer exhibit, *Echoes of Liberty*, opening at the Wayland Museum on June 21 featuring contemporary artworks inspired by 10 of our collection objects. Then this summer, invite friends and family to attend our youth programming Little Liberties, a chance for kids to make their own art inspired by history.

Inside, we kept things moving. Exhibits rotated almost monthly, our quilt collection came out of storage for the fall fundraiser and more recently for *Fabulous Fashion* when a 1700's crewel embroidered stomacher has made a rare appearance. Board Members and volunteers helped photograph a portion of our costumes and dresses (images online now, thanks to our new online database). We also featured postcards about Wayland thanks to Kathy Alpert. And, it was a fun surprise to see our Valentine's Day scavenger hunt get a shoutout in the Globe, especially as we continue finding ways to engage a range of ages.

Last August, we also marked the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina with a special display honoring Wayland's sister city relationship with Waveland, Mississippi. It was created in partnership with Waveland's own Ground Zero Hurricane Museum. Twenty years on, that bond still means something and it is important history to remember how our communities worked together.

Through Wayland Rev250, we co-hosted speakers and events including Anneliese Meck on Chinese Americans in the Civil War, and with Tilly Laskey on *Precious and Adored* coming up in June. The *Tracing Liberty* series continues, bringing monthly walks and talks with support from the MA Office of Tourism and Town of Wayland. With Mass Humanities support we gathered to read Frederick Douglass and we're adding a kids' event for this year's edition. We co-hosted Conversations for Change with the library and the town's HRDEI Committee. Gretchen Schuler led walks and talks, Steve Glovsky shared Knox history, and Jane Sciacca brought her Lydia Maria Child expertise to out-of-state visitors. **Thank you to our many volunteers** and to Kay Gardner-Westcott for sharing her knowledge with the community.



History Belongs to Everyone

This year also marked installation of environmental monitors and launched our online collections database, making Wayland's history findable beyond our walls for the first time. You can visit our collection at: <https://hub.catalogit.app/wayland-museum>

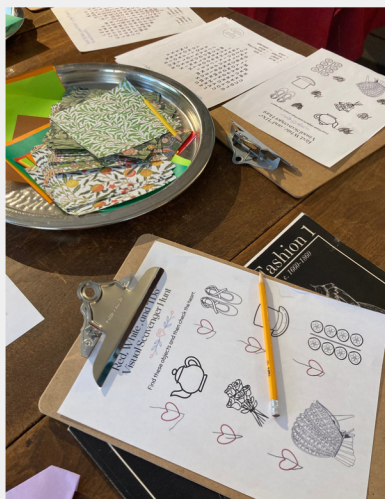
The Home Team opens this fall as an exhibit tied to sports history in town. The stories are a range of interesting past and present history: Ted Williams on Dudley Pond, Hazel Wightman's connection to WSTC, Robert Anastas, a WHS hockey coach, who founded SADD. Korey Dropkin, trained at Broomstones, silver medal at the recent Olympics. Lots of stories to share and ways to connect our past to the present.

Stay with us, and share all the exciting things happening with your friends and family.
Thank you for being part of the Wayland Museum & Historical Society.

A special thank you to Lynn Trimby, who has served this organization with generosity and expertise over the years, helping move our finances into the 21st century with QuickBooks Online and remaining someone we all rely on when questions arise. We're grateful and thank her for her years of service to WM&HS.

Scarlett V. Hoey

Executive Director
Director@waylandmuseum.org



Curator's Report

Every day adds a new layer to our shared history.

The question is not whether these moments matter, but who will preserve them, interpret them, and ensure they are understood. Each moment becomes part of a larger story, but only if someone conserves it. Without context, an artifact is silent. Without interpretation, an event fades. When collections grow without their stories attached, it becomes the curator's task to rediscover those connections. Curators ensure that the essential questions, who, what, where, why, and how are what give meaning to the objects and the memories we inherit.



Apple Fest at the Wayside Inn

The word curator comes from the Latin *curare*, meaning “to care.” Curators care for objects, but also for voices, even those historically underrepresented. They research, interpret, and give form to stories with the acknowledgement that not all history is pleasant, yet all of it deserves to be told honestly and respectfully. Each investigation reveals new layers of the town's remarkable past.

Research is the foundation of this work. It allows us to uncover the cultural, political, literary, and environmental history, revealing a town far richer and more complex than any single artifact could show. When collections grow without their stories attached, it becomes the curator's task to rediscover those connections. This includes researching the provenance, photographing artifacts, and establishing each object's significance. We also engage the public, guide volunteers, and make thoughtful decisions about acquisitions and deaccessions. Most importantly, we ensure that Wayland's story is shared.



As a part-time curator, I work within limited hours but with unlimited commitment. The hiring Board prioritized continuing the extraordinary inventory efforts begun by Jo Gosselt and her volunteers by researching origins, photographing artifacts, and establishing their records in a format the public can explore. Much of this work is done pro bono and requires patience, focus, and collaboration. Although we are collecting fewer items while this documentation continues, new arrivals still require careful cataloging and interpretation.

I am grateful for the dedicated volunteers who help move the museum's goals forward. Their time, energy, and enthusiasm strengthen our ability to care for the collection and sustain the work that keeps the museum thriving. Thank you to: Dottie Kelsy, Lois Toombs, Anne Narwari, Sandy Coy, and Sherry Anne Bryant. This year, I welcomed visitors from numerous states, hosted the Daughters of the American Revolution, joined the Rev250th Committee, and coordinated a visit from Lydia Maria Child scholars from Minnesota. My ongoing research - often the quiet backbone of our work - continues to uncover stories that inspire financial donations and deepen our understanding of Wayland's past.



Curator's Report cont.

I also had several opportunities to engage directly with the public outside the museum. I enjoyed participating in the Apple Fest at the Wayside Inn with Elisa Scola and Wayland's own Festival with the WM&HS Board, where we invited people to touch, try, and truly experience history. I continued working with various Town departments to ensure that new community signage reflects accurate and honest historical information. I also investigated family histories and documented Wayland's environmental history for preservationists.

Throughout the year, I assisted with multiple displays, including the Wayland Center miniature railroad, library exhibits, and rotating in-house presentations ranging from postcard collections to the annual meeting. I created several interactive games for visitors, conducted research that added depth to the quilt show and collaborated with Children's Librarian Pam McCuen to create a youth-designed paper quilt.

Although writing is not my strongest skill, I contributed articles to both the WM&HS newsletter and the Wayland Post. I also strive to respond promptly to all inquiries. This year's new accessions include artwork and hockey photographs and stories from the Carole Yeager family, important documents relating to Wayland's history, as well as artifacts from the beloved Nisbet's Variety Store in Cochranton, once owned by Olive and Hiram Nisbet.

What motivates me is learning something new every day. To keep growing, I attended programs, classes, and lectures, and visited other museums to exchange ideas and discover new ways to enhance our own storytelling and presentations.

Kay Gardner-Westcott

Curator

Curator@waylandmuseum.org



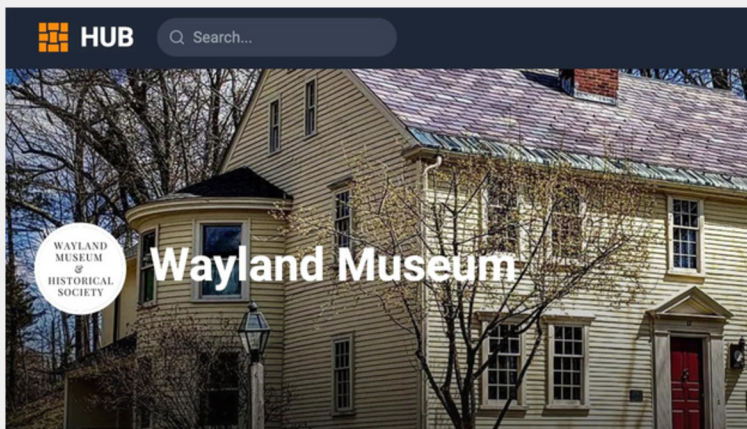
Collections Committee Report

Our concentration on the collections this year centered on the quilts and other quilted items that were photographed by the Massachusetts Quilt Museum, and our yearlong research project for documenting the family history of the quilters, donors, their parents, and their connections in Wayland. Photographs were added when they were found.

Having previously de-accessioned items in the framed pictures and certificates collection, we found a home for the large stash of empty frames stored in Willy's Shed. A person connected with the Sudbury Historical Society hopes to repurpose them.

The wedding dresses recently exhibited from our collection have been extensively photographed—for tears, stains, open seams, unusual construction details, etc.—then carefully repacked in archival boxes with archival tissue to cushion folds, sleeves, and fancy necklines.

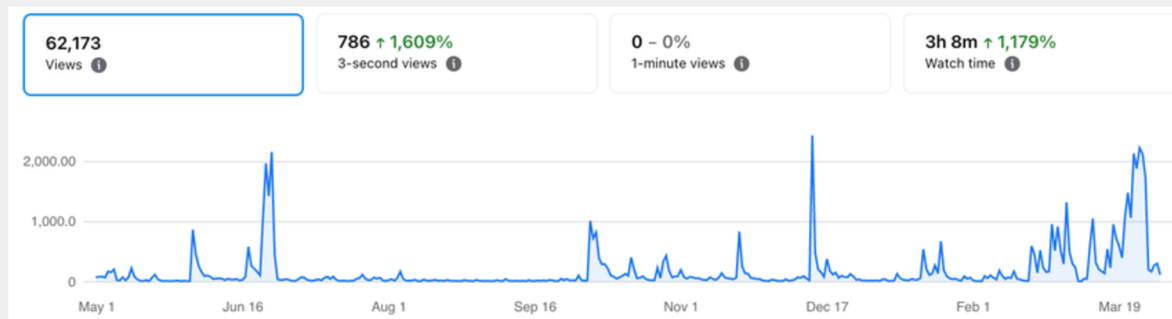
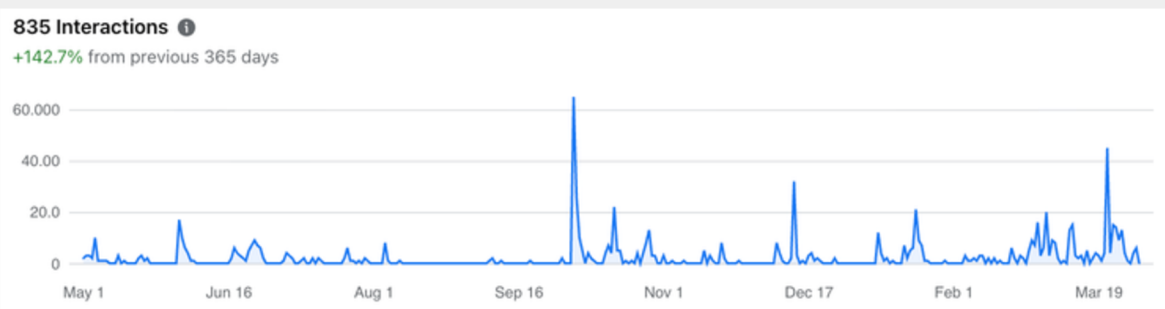
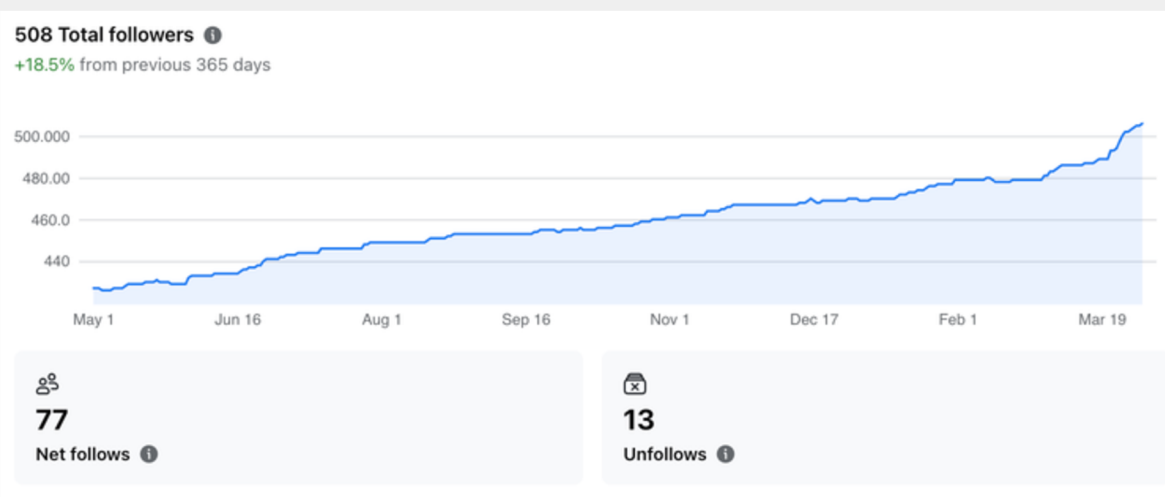
Details have been noted in Catalogit.app, <https://hub.catalogit.app/wayland-museum>, our replacement for PastPerfect recording of artifacts in the museum.



Facebook Engagement

In accordance with our Strategic Plan the museum continues to increase visibility and community awareness of the Wayland Museum & Historical Society by using social media. Please give us a follow and share our posts.

Data May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026



Membership Committee Report

As per the change voted in the May 2025 Annual meeting, our membership year runs from October 1- September 30. The membership committee sent a series of notices to members inviting them to renew their membership for 2025-2026 using PayPal, Venmo, credit card, or check. Membership categories were as follows:

- Senior/Student - \$25
- Individual - \$40
- Family - \$60
- Sponsor - \$100
- Patron - \$250
- Sustainer - \$500.

The membership appeal also advised recipients of the opportunity to contribute to one or more of the four endowment funds:

- Grout-Heard House Maintenance Endowment Fund
- Joanne Davis Education Endowment Fund
- Conservation Endowment Fund
- Unrestricted Endowment Fund

Solicitations were also sent to Life Members to donate to one of the funds listed above or to the General Operating Fund.

At the end of the fiscal year, April 30, 2026, the Society had 120 Annual memberships and 49 Life memberships. Thirteen life members made additional contributions to one of the funds. Lead gifts of \$250 or more were given by 18 persons or families.

The Board of Managers would like to thank all who continue to support the Wayland Museum & Historical Society through membership, donations, and sponsorships .

You are the life of our organization.

Making It All Possible

Members 2025-2026

**Indicates members making lead gifts of \$250 or more
+ Gifts in Memory of Dick Hoyt

Allen, Nancy
Anderson, Rita H. & Bob
Angelini Steve
Athán, Larry & Betsy
Barnard, John D. & Nancy J.
Bendel, John
Bennett, Nancy
Berry, Joanne & Dennis
Bonaguide, Pam
Borkowski, Mary Ann
Broomer, Richard & Kathleen
Brown, Elissa
Brown, Louise
Bryant, Sherry Anne
Buell, Barbara & Paul Langer
Butler, Beth
Caputa, Amy
Cavanaugh, Maureen & Mark Hunt
Ciaccio, Amanda
Coy, Sandy and Steve
Culver, Ned & Susan
Currie, Douglas & Carol
Dale, Gregory & Nita Simbolon
Dann, Nancy
**Davidson, Michele & Thomas
Davis, Lois
Davis, Rania and Mark
Doerr, Lois & Paul
Dowd, Lynne
**Downs, Benjamin
Dunlap, Arthur
Engel, Patricia & Robert
Engler, Steve
Farley, Mary and Bryan
Fay, Tom
Feldman, Maura
Fye, Donald & Kaia
Gardner-Westcott, Kay
**Glovsky, Steven & Susan
**Gordon Neil & Ann
**Gossels, Bonnie and Family
Greenbaum, Stephen & Sherre
Greene, Steven
Greer, Steve
Greyser, Linda & Stephen

Hagger, Chris
Hagnauer, Gary
Hall, Amy
Harlan, Raymond
Harrington, Timothy & Minnette
Herbordt, Ellen & Martin
Hill, Margaret
Howell, Barbara
Jahnke, Nan & Art
Jenney, Kate
Johnson, Raymond & Martha
Vaananen
Karpp, Leslie
Keane, Robert W.
Keating, Madeline
Kelsey, Dorothea & Thomas
Kennedy, Frank D.
** +Kenney, William
Keye, Ken & Anne
Keyes, Brad & Susan
Klein, Susie & Jim Hammitt
LaFarge, Vicki & Christopher
Lamprey, Bob and Sally
Lang, Kathleen McCarthy
Largy, Tonya & Tom
Largy, Tim
**Lascell, Donna
Laurenzi, Elise
Levine, Jeffrey & Shawna
Levy, Ann
Lin, Pei & Patricia
Lipcon, Lynne & Jesse
Livingstone, Greg & Virginia
Lordi, Angela
**Lowery, Karen & Mike
**Lynch, Chris & Joan
Mailloux, Marlene
Martell, Jo & Paul Zaferiou
Mauer, Pamela
McCullough, Marion (Marty)
McNitt, Nancy
Montague, Ira and Karen
Morgan, Charles
Mosurick, Sarah
Muschett, Ann & Michael Blau
Myles, Barbara
Neiterman, Elin (Shai Neiterman)
Neumeyer, Evelyn
O'Donnell, Joanne
Patterson, Michael
Peabody, Marion
Place, Carolyn
**Pollitt, Frances and Frank Briber

Robinson, Bobby
Scola, Elisa & Charles Pak
Schmidt, Kathie
**Schuler, John & Gretchen
Segal, Linda & Harvey
+Short, Michael
**Signorovitch, James and Ana
Sims, Keith and Pat
Skeen, Helen (Henny)
Smith, Alan Edward
Soorian, Bob
Stein, Judith
Stephenson, Wen & Fiona
Sway, Pamela
Tiberii, Suzanne
Toombs, Lois and Peter
Trimby, Lynn & Ross
Van Sciver, Jim & Jodie Osgood
Walter, Marilyn T.
**Watkins, Dave & Lilly
Westbom, Nancy
**Westerling, Susan
Whitney, Jean & Bill
Williams, Maurice W.
Wintle, Thomas
Wolfe, Carol

Corporate and Community Sponsors

- Middlesex Savings Bank
- Ted Gowdy, Gowdy Group
- Ameriprise - Adrienne Snapp
- Village Bank
- Danielle Meade - Realtor
- Forge
- Savatree, LLC
- Spencer Preservation Group
- Tanya Tanimoto Sotby
- Mastodon
- Nikki McCay Realtor
- COMRIE
- Russell's
- Joanne Berry
- Bryant Funeral Home
- Scotland Painting
- Lynch Landscape
- Doug McNeilly
- Kelly Wheeler- Classic Travel

LIFE MEMBERS

**Anderson, Charles & Lea*
**Antes, Mary*
Ashkar, Jim and Nancy Boyle
**Baston, Margery*
Beard, Molly & John
Bernstein, Kathleen & David
Carapezza, Nancy
***Conard, Richard*
Cooper, Tessa & Glenn L.
**DiCesare, Pauline M.*
Dorey, Robert J. & Heather E.
Elbing, Karen & Kris
Emery, John B.
**Faulkner, Molly*
Gardel Family
Gardescu, Betty
**Gennis, Aida & Thomas*
Goeselt, Jo
Gossels, Elaine & Werner
Gossels, Nancy
Heckscher, Kathy
***Humphrey, Diana*
Kucharski, Marilyn
Landry, John & Ann
***Lewis, Anette & Clifford*

Lifland, David & Catherine Radmer
Linden, Sally
Mainer, Robert
Marshall, Tricia & David
McCarthy, Audrey & John Hoye
**McEvoy, Norma*
Mendler, Janot
Newbury, Ted
Patsouris, George & George Bennett
**Poisson, Lynn & Michael*
Rice, George L.
Rosenfeld, Donald
Sciacca, Tom & Jane
***Scolnick, Barbara B.*
Sideman-Kurtz, Rachel
Sperling, Laurene
Storkerson, Marcia
Strong, Sonja T.
Sundberg, Steven
Taub, Martha C.
Turner, Richard P.
Urell, Roger
Williamson, Jane
Wolfson, Evelyn
Yankee Lighting Workshop, Scott Sweeney

** Indicates life members who made additional
donations in 2025-2026*

*** Indicates lead gifts of \$250 or more*

WITH THANKS to MEMBERS: GIFTS of \$250 and ABOVE

Beard, John & Molly
Dowd, Lynn
Glovsky, Steven & Susan G.L.
Gordon, Ann & Neil
Gossels, Bonnie & Family
Lascell, Donna
Lewis, Anette & Clifford

Lin, Pei & Patricia
Lynch, Joan & Chris
Pollitt, Frank Briber & Frances
Schuler, Gretchen & John
Scolnick, Barbara
Signorovitch, Ana & James

Members whose passing has been reported
Dick Hoyt

**Wayland Historical Society
Annual Meeting - May 14, 2025
Wayland Town Building**

The Annual Meeting of the Wayland Historical Society was called to order by President Sherry Anne Bryant on May 14, 2025.

President's Report

Ms. Bryant welcomed attendees and noted that several items requiring member votes would be considered during the meeting, with each member entitled to one vote.

She expressed appreciation to several individuals for their service to the Society:

- Lynn Trimby for serving as Interim Treasurer
- Brad Keyes for his ongoing assistance with the HVAC system
- Elisa Scola for her work completing a partial term and her leadership on the Program Committee
- Jon Weintraub, Bonnie Gossels, and Cliff Lewis for their service as Trustees

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Trimby presented an overview of the Society's financial position for the year.

She reported that the new HVAC system cost approximately \$53,000. Funding assistance included approximately \$14,000 from the Wayland Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund for a conservation assessment. Conservation funds were also used to install light-blocking shades.

For the current fiscal year, approximately \$5,000 is anticipated for House and Grounds expenses.

Ms. Trimby announced that after five years as Trustee and five years as Treasurer, she would be stepping down from her role.

Trustee Report

Bonnie Gossels presented the Trustee Report.

She noted that the Society's endowment includes three Vanguard funds. The 12-month return on the Vanguard investments was 5.4%, with a five-year annualized return of 10.5%.

Bonnie reported that the account had been converted to a brokerage account. The Trustees authorized a 4% draw from the endowment, noting that an additional \$30,000 endowment draw is not sustainable long term. She also reported that the Replacement and Growth Reserve had declined.

She highlighted that CPA Grant funding and a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant paid for the replacement HVAC system, which both protects artifacts in the house and improves working conditions within the building.

Ms. Gossels concluded by recognizing Lynn Trimby for her years of service, which was met with a standing ovation from attendees.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

Bylaw Amendments

Vicki LaFarge reviewed proposed bylaw changes.

She explained that:

- Article 4 would change the start of the Society's fiscal year to October, as September is an especially busy month.
- The number of Directors would increase from six to nine in order to build organizational strength, broaden skill sets, and strengthen flexibility within the organization.
- Article 14 would change Trustee terms from one-year appointments to staggered three-year terms at the request of the Nominating Committee, allowing for greater continuity and effectiveness.

Ms. LaFarge thanked Anette Lewis for serving as legal counsel and assisting with the bylaw language.

A motion to approve the bylaw amendments was made and seconded. The motion passed with 21 votes in favor and none opposed.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Bryant announced that the Society welcomed its first Executive Director, Scarlett Hoey, in November.

Ms. Hoey spoke about her appreciation for being part of the community and reflected that "memory is the treasury and guardian of all things." She emphasized the Society's role in preserving the collective memory and diverse stories of Wayland.

She highlighted several current and upcoming initiatives, including:

- The Rail Trail signage project, incorporating Jane Sciacca's research on enslaved individuals in Wayland
- Efforts to pursue federal compliance standards for Mansion Inn artifacts

- Continued partnerships with the Wayland Library and new collaborations with ArtsWayland and the Human Rights Committee
- Monthly Sunday Celebrations
- Participation in Wayland Day on October 4
- A Quilt Fundraiser planned for Friday, October 17
- Continuation of the First Day Walk, launched on January 1
- An upcoming talk by Evangeline Simpson

Curator's Report

Curator Kay Gardner-Westcott presented the Curator's Report.

She described the importance of uncovering hidden stories within the Society's collections and noted that oral histories can disappear within three generations if not preserved.

Ms. Gardner-Westcott emphasized the value of recording everyday experiences and reminded attendees that daily life today is creating tomorrow's history. She encouraged community members to share their stories with the Historical Society so they may be preserved for future generations.

Election of Directors and Trustees

Gretchen Schuler presented the slate of nominees on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

She reported that the committee met several times and that the slate had been approved by the Board prior to presentation to the membership.

The following nominees were presented:

- Elisa Scola and Michele Davidson for three-year terms as Directors
- Lynn Trimby, Jon Weintraub, and Cliff Lewis for three-year terms as Trustees of Funds

A motion to approve the slate was made and seconded. The motion passed with 21 votes in favor and none opposed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and approved.

The meeting was adjourned.



Thank You



508-358-7959



12 Cochituate Rd, P. O. Box 56, Wayland, MA 01778



waylandmuseum.org