



The Marston's Grist

The newsletter of the Marstons Mills Historical Society

P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648 marstonsmillshistorical.org

A few words from the President...

All of us have had to live through the concerns and restrictions, and in some cases the sadness, of the current pandemic and can understandably feel that we see no real end in sight as yet. Your Marstons Mills Historical Society, at first thrown back by the onslaught of not being able to meet and converse, rebounded to the extent of having two virtual “live” meetings in May and June as we continued with our fascinating pursuits as a society. We will continue that practice with monthly meetings, starting with September 8, 2020, until it is deemed both safe and comfortable for us to once again be together in person. We note a kind of “silver lining” in having to hold virtual meetings—several of our off-Cape members have been able to participate fully in our meetings, which would otherwise not have been possible. The lesson we can take from that is to consider how, once we begin again to have face-to-face meetings, we can somehow develop a “hybrid” kind of meeting in which our remotely-located members can still be brought in via some video capability. We will work on the technology for that. In the meantime, in this issue we see several Society initiatives moving forward: the possible restoration of the historic glass hearse in the Hearse House at the Cemetery; an outdoor ceremony on October 10 honoring 12 Revolutionary War veterans buried there; and the continuing and intriguing attention to the 1905-1915 glass negative photographs of the Mills that are now in our possession. We look forward to being together both virtually in meetings and face-to-face at social distancing on October 10 at the Revolutionary War event.

-David Martin, President

HISTORIC HEARSE NEEDS RESTORATION

In the 19th century, many Cape Cod towns and villages had their own horse-drawn hearse, but over the years, one by one, they have either deteriorated or have been moved elsewhere. Consequently, Barnstable's glass hearse, housed in the Hearse House at Marstons Mills Cemetery, is the only remaining vehicle of its vintage in southeastern Massachusetts. “Our” hearse was for a time housed in the Trayser Museum in Barnstable Village, and the House in Marstons Mills Cemetery that had originally housed it was used for storage of Buildings and Grounds equipment by the Town. That House was then slated to be moved to Sandy Neck as a gate house in the mid-1980's, whereupon a dedicated group of Marstons Mills residents, including Historical Society and Village Association members, came together and saved the House for its original purpose. When the Trayser Museum became the Coast Guard Museum, the hearse was then moved back into the Hearse House, again with volunteer labor.



continued on page 3

The Mission of the Marstons Mills Historical Society is to foster an interest in the story of our village. We preserve historical images, documents and artifacts, research historic resources and support educational opportunities for all ages for villagers and other interested persons, in order to better understand and appreciate the past, present and future of Marstons Mills.

Coming Events...

- ♦ **Tuesday, September 8 @2:00 p.m.:** Regular meeting of Marstons Mills Historical Society via Zoom
- ♦ **Tuesday, October 6 @2:00 p.m.:** Regular meeting of Marstons Mills Historical Society via Zoom
- ♦ **Saturday, October 10 @10:00 a.m.:** Special Ceremony honoring Revolutionary War Patriots, Marstons Mills Cemetery
- ♦ **Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.:** Symposium about Cape Cod and the Plimoth Colony (see article)
- ♦ **Tuesday, November 19 @2:00 p.m.:** Regular meeting of Marstons Mills Historical Society via Zoom
- ♦ **Tuesday, December 8 @2:00 p.m.:** Regular meeting of Marstons Mills Historical Society via Zoom

All are welcome!

MMHS OFFICERS

President: David Martin

Vice-President: Rick Presbrey

Secretary: Wendy Bierwith

Treasurer: Bebe Brock

BOOK STORE

Images of America: Marstons Mills. An Arcadia Publication written by local historians James Gould and Vivian Cushing. Limited signed copies. View this publication at marstonsmillshistorical.org/publications.
Available for purchase at MMPL.

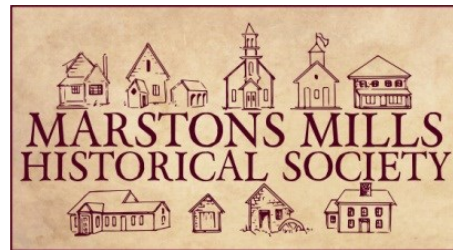
NOTE: prices of some books have been reduced!

Explore! Contemporary Marstons Mills, Cape Cod
A limited edition, full-color book by Sandra Bolton. Mail a check payable to MMHS for \$32 plus \$5 shipping and handling to P.O. Box 1375, Marstons Mills MA 02648. Also available by emailing boltonslanding@comcast.net, subject line: order book.

The MMHS meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at Marstons Mills Public Library. **All are welcome!**



Comments and articles for submission should be sent to astephens@clamsnet.org.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ I / we wish to join the Society and enclose payment for my / our Individual Membership(s) at \$15 each.

☐ I / we wish to make a charitable contribution to the Society to support the development of its Village Archives and the Preservation of its Collection.

\$250 \$150 \$75 \$25 \$10 Other _____

Name: _____

Street / POB: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

☐ I / we wish to be notified about MMHS Meetings.

The Marstons Mills Historical Society is
a 501 (c) 3 Charitable Organization

P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648
marstonsmillshistorical.org

Cut out and return to the address on the bottom of the form.



The Marstons Mills Hearse House, located in the cemetery off Route 149 in Marstons Mills.

Glass Hearse continued...

The Hearse House roof is being repaired to make it again waterproof, with the work being done by the Town's Structures and Grounds Department. The hearse, however, is in need of restoration and preservation. While in fundamentally fair-to-good condition, it needs refurbishing of different kinds, which will require securing funding from several sources. A formal presentation for preservation funding will be made to the Historical Commission during September. Anyone who is interested in viewing this unique vehicle may contact David Martin (davidmartindr@aol.com, or 508-527-0460) to arrange a chance to see it. Volunteers with experience in restoration of wooden and glass structures may be needed for assistance.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS TO BE HONORED

Through careful research into the background of those buried in the Marstons Mills Cemetery, the gravestones of twelve veterans of the Revolutionary War have been identified. A team of Society volunteers—Bebe Brock, Jeannie Oakley and Wendy Bierwirth—have been trained as gravestone cleaners and have now cleaned each of these Patriot gravestones.

In collaboration with the Cape Cod Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the Society will hold a special commemorative ceremony on Saturday, October 10, 2020 in the Cemetery, with a rain date of Saturday, October 24. Starting at 10:00 a.m., the outdoor ceremony will include prayers, narratives of the Revolutionary War service of each of the twelve Patriots, the marking of each grave with a special SAR medallion and an American flag placed by a living descendant in each case, a bugler playing Taps and a musket volley by a Color Guard from the Yarmouth Minute-Men (a Revolutionary War re-enactment group who will be dressed in period uniforms). The event is free; all attendees are asked to wear appropriate masks, bring a folding chair and observe appropriate social-distancing. Parking will be along the sides of either of the entrance roads to the Cemetery. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony at Liberty Hall. Special guests expected to be present are both of our State Representatives, the President of the Barnstable Town Council, and one of our representatives to the Town Council.



An example of one of the cleaned Revolutionary War gravestones

CALLING ALL HISTORIC HOUSE OWNERS!

Was your house built before 1900? Might it be one of the houses in the historic house survey of Marstons Mills? If so, you may want to have a historic sign marker placed on the house. The Marstons Mills Historical Society has a Historic House Sign Project through which they will verify the historic first owner by researching the house survey. If the house meets the specifications, the MMHS will develop and attach an approved sign; the cost is only \$50 to the homeowner. The Society will assist with the research and will have the sign made and attached in an external place that you will specify and approve. For more information, or to arrange for help having the house history verified, contact David Martin at davidmartindr@aol.com or 508-527-0460. Help the Village to show its long and proud history!

HISTORIC STRUCTURE INVENTORIES

The Society's large inventory of the village's historic structures has been the target of updating efforts for two years. Selecting the 10 of the oldest structures for updating and revision, a team of Society members have personally visited the sites, taken updated photographs, done further research on the chains of title, and added genealogical details where possible. The structures include: Isaac Crocker Farm, Isaac Crocker House, Ebenezer Goodspeed House, Gifford Farm, John Hamblin House, Luther Hamblin House, Hinckley Homestead, William Marston House, Merrill Estate, and Cyrus Jones House (sometimes referred to as the Prince House). The inventories were presented as a group to the Barnstable Historical Commission at their July 2020 meeting and were approved to be sent forward to the Massachusetts Historical

Commission. Once approved there, they will be assigned new inventory numbers and will then be substituted for the existing descriptions that are currently in the Historic Structures page of the MMHS website (marstonmillshistorical.org). An example of a completed revised inventory for one of these—the well-known William Marston house located on Route 149 on the pond near the corner of Route 28—can be seen [HERE](#) to show the kind of information that is required for inclusion by the Massachusetts Commission.



TWO BARNSTABLE AWARDS TO THE MILLS

Just after the publication of the most recent GRIST, the Society received two pieces of good news from the Barnstable Historical Commission. The Commission's Award for Historical Preservation was given to the current owners of the Luther Hamblin House, Harry and Terrie Rigollet, for their meticulous and historically accurate restoration several years ago. The Society is proud to count this house among its historical inventory, as well as to count the Rigollets as Society members.

Separately, the Commission's Award for Outstanding Work in Historic Preservation has been given to Professor Jim Gould in recognition for his many years of dedicated service to the entire Town (and elsewhere) in untiringly promoting and supporting preservation of historical entities. We are proud to count Jim as a member and past officer of the Society!

GLASS NEGATIVES TO BE DISPLAYED

The trove of wonderful glass negative photographs of Marstons Mills, taken between 1905 and 1915, have been



the focus of both the May and June 2020 Society

meetings, held via Zoom. Thanks to efforts made by members during both meetings, most of the more than 100 photographs have been identified as to people and places. The photographs show scenes of Marstons Mills center, the church, frozen bogs, ponds, domestic animals and several citizens; the photographs have provided a window into the Mills of more than a century ago. Hard copies of the photographs are ready for display at the Marstons Mills Public Library after the Library is able to re-open for regular hours. Now, plans are afoot for some selections of the photograph set to be included in Cape Cod Five Bank's annual calendar for 2021, which will appear in December for all to enjoy.

MAYFLOWER 400TH HISTORICAL SYMPOSIUM

The Cape and Islands Historical Association (CIHA), in observance of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the ship Mayflower, will hold a special Symposium all day on Saturday, October 17, 2020 via Zoom. The event focuses on a sometimes-neglected aspect of the early years of the Plimoth Colony—Cape Cod's significant place in the Colony's development throughout its first century and beyond. Ten different authors have written Essays on the political, economic, religious and historical aspects of the roles that Cape Cod played in the colony from its very beginning. As noted in the press release attached to this issue, anyone interested in participating may register for \$25; the price includes the Essays Book to read in advance as well as the Zoom link for participating in the Symposium. Attendees

will listen to authors give summaries of their essays and can interact through questions-and-answer sessions.

Society member Jim Gould was a member of the essay-review committee for the Symposium. David Martin is the coordinator of the Symposium for the CIHA and essay authors include historians, teachers, and members of historical societies. The keynote speaker for the event will be William Martin (no relation to David), who is the author of the historical novel *Cape Cod*, among many other works. Society members are welcome to participate by using the registration information on the back page of this newsletter (we suggest you photocopy it so you don't cut up your copy of the Grist!).

SANDY SNEAKERS WALKS THE VILLAGE



How The World Turns may be a daytime soap opera that can be turned off in a second, but when the world turns inside out and upside down, devastated by the core of a pandemic virus, we come to attention. Shark frenzy, pond bacteria, social distancing; and I have never seen so many masks since Halloween 2019. I could never pick anyone out in a line-up with a mask.

So here we are ending, summer 2020. Cranberry Sunset Farm, a Marstons Mills gem, the wonderful farm that contributes to the development of children with special care, celebrated its tenth anniversary with style.

The book *EXPLORE CONTEMPORARY MARSTONS MILLS* was an honored donation for the fundraising auction. The farm, rescue horses, bogs and camps is a dream come true for owner Leslie Ballotti.



Happy horses



Tree of masks

As 2020 roared on, ponds were off limits for swimming and polluted with bacteria. Enter the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition team to do something. Ever hear of an I/A, aka Innovative and Alternative, septic system? It is

next generation technology. There is an EPA research project in the works to guide a Shubael Pond project to understand the ground water flow into the 53-acre kettle pond in the Sand Shores neighborhood. You can check them out at the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center. In a nutshell, the I/A system uses wood chips—a natural filtering system—installed in a unit connected to an existing septic system. The Barnstable Clean Water Coalition is on a mission. Hope springs eternal.



Front page article in the Boston Globe August 1, 2020

On a lighter note, I grew up in the era of SH-Boom; now, I am in the era of ZOOM. The Barnstable Adult Community Center has invited me to do a ZOOM presentation on September 15 @11:00 a.m. **Script To Screen: How Does a Senior Citizen Produce a Film?**

'Till next time' Sandy Sneakers
Text and photos by Sandra Bolton



THE CAPE AND ISLANDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (CIHA) PRESENTS A
SPECIAL “ZOOM”-BASED SYMPOSIUM:

CAPE COD AND THE PLIMOTH COLONY

SATURDAY, October 17, 2020 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- **10 ESSAYS ON THE IMPORTANT ROLES OF CAPE COD WITHIN THE PLIMOTH COLONY IN THE EARLY YEARS**

Topics: *Interactions between Native Peoples and Cape Settlers; First Families; Religious Trends; Cultures; Legends; Little-Known Facts; and more.*

- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** WILLIAM MARTIN, author of the historical novel, *Cape Cod*
- **OPPORTUNITIES TO ASK QUESTIONS OF AUTHORS**

Registration: Using the attached form, send registration and payment of \$25 (includes a mailed copy of the Essays Book and the link for virtually attending the Symposium all day on 10/17.

Note: Because of time limits, authors will provide summaries of their essays during the Symposium before discussions. It is recommended that participants read the full essays in the book before the Symposium to be able to interact with the authors during the presentation. Those registering for the Symposium will receive the Zoom invitation by October 12.

Deadline: September 30, 2020

Questions? Contact David Martin at davidmartindr@aol.com, or call 508-527-0460.

MAYFLOWER 2020 SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

October 17, 2020

I would like to register for the Symposium, **Cape Cod and the Plimoth Colony**. Included is my \$25, which entitles me to a copy of the Essays Book, *The Mayflower Stopped Here First*, and the Zoom link for the interactive Symposium on October 17, 2020.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Send form and a check made out to CIHA to:
David Martin, CIHA 10 Colonial Farm Circle, Marstons Mills, MA 02648

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020