

The Philipston Tattler

A Publication of the
Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.

c/o Kay Deans, Editor
35 Riley Switch Rd.
Phillipston MA 01331



Fostering Awareness of Our History
and Pride in Our Community

Website

The Society's website went live in October 2007. You can now visit us at:

www.HistoricalSocietyOfPhillipston.org.

This spring we will begin an interactive section about some of our collections. Our curator Jane French has several photos that she needs to identify, and we will be enlisting your help in this matter. It should be lots of fun as we discover tales about the people and places in the photos.

The website also contains our program schedule and instructions on how and where you can purchase the book *The Spirit of Phillipston*.

We thank Willie and Margaret Montalbano of Montalbano Computer Services, Inc., Templeton for their help and for hosting our site.

President's Message (cont. from p.5)

building for the handicap ramp, the painters, and the floor contractors. Even the inmates who painted the inside walls as part of their community service voiced their pleasure at being part of the project. Everyone's excitement grew as we approached our goal and realized the beauty of the building that was hidden by the neglect and grime of so many years.

I also want to thank Carole Gariepy, Jane French and Joan Johnson who chose our Society to be the publisher of the town's history book. The book has been well received and will be a good source of funds for the Society.

There were many workers who quietly helped, always working in the background. I thank them all, especially Kay Deans who chaired the Ways and Means Committee and our clerk Linda Langevin who kept me organized and on track.

Thelma McMahon, President

The Historical Society
of Phillipston, Inc.

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2007 -- A Year of Accomplishments

The November 11th open house at the Society's building on State Road was the culmination of an extremely busy and successful year for the Society. While one group of members was launching the society's first-ever major fundraising campaign, another group was getting the book *The Spirit of Phillipston* ready for the printer while a third busily worked on renovations to the Society's building. The final "push" came from members who set up exhibits and made refreshments for the big day when we opened the museum.

According to Gerhard Fandreyer, Chair of the Building Committee, there are just a few things left to do before we bring in the display cases and fill them, such as installing the windows and putting a few more coats of polyurethane on the floor.

There will be a building dedication ceremony sometime this summer. Watch for the date. . . .

2007 Open House



More than 150 people attended the Society's Open House on November 11, 2007.

Winter 2008 Program Schedule

Generally Programs are held on the third Wednesday of the month.

New members and guests are always welcome.

January 2008

12th Night at the Moshers – Open House for Historical Society Members. Wednesday, January 9, 2008. Time: 7:00 PM Location: Home of Michael and Jennifer Mosher, 10 Baldwinville Rd., Phillipston

February 2008

Gunsmithing – Presentation by Daniel Sanden, Gunsmith. Wednesday, February 20, 2008. Time: 7:00 PM Location: Phillips Free Public Library

March 2008

Climbing Your Family Tree - Presentation

by Linda Langevin. Wednesday, March 12, 2008. Time: 7:00 PM Location: Congregational Church Vestry

April 2008

Stagecoach Horns – Demonstration and presentation by Ringmaster Grace Yaglou. Wednesday, April 16, 2008. Time: 7:00PM Location: Congregational Church Vestry

May 2008

Pot Luck Supper and Annual Meeting - Wednesday, May 21, 2008. Time: 6:30 PM Location: Congregational Church Vestry

Looking for a Good Book?

The Spirit of Phillipston is a fascinating book about our town. It describes events and people from the time when Indians lived here up to current events in 2007. It's a great book for school-age children who can learn about their town's past and about many of the people they know and see around town today.

It's also a great book to have around

the house for visitors and out-of-town family to peruse.

The book can be purchased for \$30 at:

Primitives Fore Ewe, Jct.202/2A, Templeton Tel: 978-939-4242 or from

The Historical Society's Clerk, Linda Langevin. Tel: 978-939-5656 (Linda ships out-of-town orders for \$5.)

Book Ceremony

The book dedication and signing ceremony was held on August 26, 2007 in the Congregational Church. Carole Gariepy, Jane French and Joan Johnson were honored with flowers and a certificate of appreciation. Both Sen. Steve Brewer and Rep. Anne Gobi who were instrumental in getting the Society a grant to publish the book were present and

spoke. Richard Chaisson of Athol who provided a wealth of research materials for the book also spoke, sharing his experiences with us.



President's Message by Thelma McMahon

On behalf of all the members of the Historical Society I want to thank the Phillipston residents, the many businesses both in and around Phillipston, our friends and former residents, and our local town and state officials who have given us their warm and generous support.

It gave us such an uplift to find how many people wanted us to succeed in publishing the town's history book and renovating the Society's building. Mel Haughton not only encouraged us to solicit door-to-door in town, but also was key in organizing a very successful effort. And many residents, some who are not even members of the society, volunteered to solicit in their neighbor-

hood. Peter Gerry's contagious enthusiasm for organizing a spaghetti dinner galvanized a tired team of fundraisers who with the volunteer help of many friends and members put on a fun-time dinner. Many businesses generously gave us needed cash donations; several others gave us items to raffle. With so much generosity we surpassed our \$25,000 fundraising goal raising a total of \$26,505!

Those who worked on the Society's building excitedly watched as the building was transformed. First Brian Langevin cleared the yard to make room for parking. Then led by Gerhard Fandreyer who donated so much of his time and expertise, members helped prepare the (cont. on last page)

Building Renovations

To prepare the Society's building for public occupancy, the grounds first had to be cleared of all tree stumps and leveled to make a parking area. Then the back door was widened and a handicap ramp installed. The wiring was brought up to code; the structure stabilized with cabling; insulation was blown into the walls; and the walls were plastered. Next members moved all items that were stored in the building

to a storage trailer located on the property. Another crew of members scraped the inside walls. The sheriff's department painted inside. Hired contractors scraped and painted the outside, and sanded and polyurethaned the floor. Inside, rebuilt lighting fixtures were installed. Outside, the original lamp fixtures that had been refurbished were re-installed. A lot of work!

