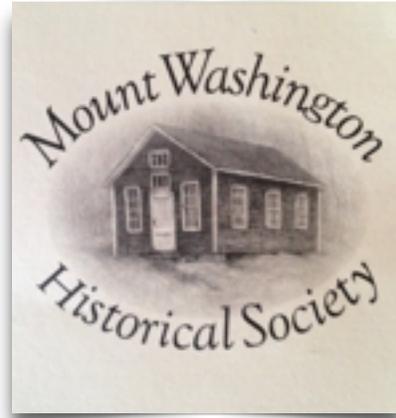


MT.WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

118 East Street Mt. Washington, Ma. 413-528-2839



***Schoolhouse Project**

***President's Note**

***Going Going Gone**

***Saving History**

***Title Search**

**Mission Statement
and Links**

Membership

MEETING DATE

Next meeting of the Mt. Washington Historical Society, Inc. is April 12, 6pm in the Town Hall.

Everyone is welcome as are your thoughts, ideas and expertise.

Why The School House Project 2016?

Of the many historical treasures in Mt. Washington, we have come to view the North Schoolhouse as a real gem. It is a substantial example of the thriving family community we were and provides fond memories to many who live here or come back to visit.

In today's world where everything is "in the cloud", "on the net" or "in virtual reality", our Schoolhouse is in the "here and now." Its history can be felt and experienced from the moment you walk in the building. This was a remark repeated several times by the participants from last Fall's Heritage Walk to the Schoolhouse. The desks, art easel, numerous readers, and old Victrola (in working order) add to an overwhelming historical and moving experience.

This project is a positive addition to our town with the alternative being an abandoned building that would be razed. Let's join together on all fronts so that does not happen!



Historically Speaking

From Mt Washington Town Records.....The Treasurer's Book
 "In 1857, John Dibell, Town Treasurer, paid one Mary Jane Pulver, \$13.00 for teaching in the North Schoolhouse."

On March 3, 1860 " paid Isaac Schutt's order for keeping the Widow Schutt, \$ 37.50.

Special Town Meeting , March, 1885: At 10 am the Town voted to grant a license for the sale of intoxicating liquor. 17 Yes 13 No

We, the Society, owe a great deal of gratitude to Mary King Austin for making suggestions for newsletter content and editing the final draft before it is sent.

Please take note..all suggestions for historical content, pictures or any old and interesting material you might have lying around is gold for the news. Email Judy at jawmtwash2@aol.com

The Ultimate Give Back

The Schoolhouse Restoration Project is a broad and diverse undertaking that will need participation on many levels. Would you be willing to use your skills, talents and interests to make this project happen? What are we asking? The Mount Washington Historical Society is made up of diverse, talented, and devoted members. Projects and leaders have been identified and now we are seeking interested volunteers. What could you do? We are suggesting tasks, which are short-lived or projects which have a larger scope. Short-term tasks would include writing for the Newsletter, (write an article once or every once-in-a while), editing, photographing sites or events, layout artist, etc. Longer term projects could include working on a Mt. Washington Historical sites map or a lecture program under the guidance of Paul McBride. Cory Hines and Lesliann Furcht have joined the efforts of the MWHS as liaisons between the town and the Historical Society. Please give these ideas some thought and if you are interested, call Elizabeth Kasevich at 528-5405 or Dianne Salamon at 528-3276.

If you would like to contribute historical images or content to our archives, please [email](#) them to us.



MOUNT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015 FUND RAISING REPORT

The Mount Washington Historical Society has tallied the monies from the 2015 Fund Raising, which included a dinner raffle last summer and the end-of-the year letter campaign.

We are delighted to announce we have raised over \$10,000 for the Schoolhouse Restoration Project. The Letter Campaign resulted in a 25% solicitation participation. When 1% is viewed as a good return, WE knocked it out of the park! This represents a fabulous start towards our goal. We will keep you apprised of our progress. If you have any ideas or recommendations as to where we can get additional support, please contact Dianne Salamon, Fund Raising Chair at 528-3276.

We want to thank those people listed below for their donations and notes of support and encouragement

Gerald & Jolaine Allan
Mary King Austin
T.C.Badger
Christopher Bamford
Richard Barton
Margaret Batista
Harriet & Johannes Bergmann
Morgan Bulkeley
Richard & Lois Case
Anne Coates Conaway
Francis Cotter
Sarah & Peter Diamond
Linda & David Dufault
Melinda Fine
Phylis Fink
Jean Furcht
W.S.Gerstel
Diane Gocs
Laura Hahn
Bobbie Hallig

Sarah Johnston
Matthew Kaplan
Elizabeth & Raymond Kasevich
Peter Klinkowski
Alexander Koren
Elizabeth Lem
Zachary Lockman
Marilou Marshall
Scott Miller
D.L. Moskowitz
Linda Pescosolido
Winthrop Pescosolido
Richard Pinner
Lewis Randall
Carolyn Romano
Leonard & Dianne Salamon
Betsy Spears
Don Thomas
William & Jane Vaughn
Pam & Chris Ward
Judith Whitbeck

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Do you like to solve a mystery? Are you a research type? If so we need your help. The North School House presently does not have a deed or title, one of which will give the building legitimacy. In order to procure a grant for funding to renovate the building, it is necessary to have one of these. Many of the members of the MWHS have spent time at the Registry of Deeds in Gt. Barrington, searching for the person who donated the land upon which the building sits. But to no avail. Currently, our newest Board Member, Paul Mc Bride, an avid historian, is combing old records to see what he can find.

We are thinking of creative ways in which to circumvent the need for an official title or deed. However, until we find a plausible solution, we are at a dead end. Maybe one of you who reads this newsletter is a lawyer who would like to help with this project.

In the meantime, I went and visited the schoolhouse last week. I always feel a rush of good will as soon as I enter the room. I noticed a further deterioration of the floor, which seems to have shifted even more during this winter. Also the outside window frames are showing more rot and I noticed two missing shingles in the front.

Sleuths and detectives, please contact me if you have any information or would like to help with this project.

Elizabeth Kasevich
eskase@gmail.com
413-528-5405



GOING, GOING, GONE

The Hunts ran a boarding house called "Open Acres".
The last of the original buildings at the Hunt property is gone.

The Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation has the property on East Street (State Park Headquarters).

The condition of the Hunt house as viewed in photos indicated it should be demolished, as there were no alternatives at this time. It was unfortunate that the State never put anything into the building in all the years they owned it.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Mount Washington Historical Commission were in agreement on the demolition of the Hunt House. The building was taken down December 2015.

Mount Washington Historical Commission
Judith Whitbeck
Margaret Whitbeck
Elizabeth Kasevich - appointed after the death of William Miles



FLASH....The Folks at the DCR State Headquarters have expressed real enthusiasm for being more connected to the Mt. Washington Historical Society and Mt.Washington historical properties. The DCR would like to place a kiosk in the area of the former Hunt House. The Mt Washington Historical Society may have the ability to post events and historical information at the kiosk.

Saving History*

Paul McBride is the newest member of the Mount Washington Historical Society. Paul majored in history (historiography-research) then worked toward a Masters in Archaeology.

He made a recent visit to the New York State Public Library in Albany, N.Y to research the Livingston papers for documentation showing there was 17th century occupation on the Taghkanic plantations now know as Mt Washington.

He has copied the Keith Papers from the originals by Herbert Keith.

Found 3 different maps in 3 different eras of Mt Washington history dated 1774, 1792, 1870.

Found information relative to Mt Washington historical sites already documented for registry status.

Paul will be working with Berkshire School on its past history and the school's connections with Mt. Washington.

*Taken from notes provided by Paul Mc Bride.

Mystery of the North School House Deed May Come to An End

At the March meeting of the Board of Directors of the MWHS, Inc., the board voted to hire Lynn Wood, a professional researcher, to do a title search for a deed or legal document to the North School House.

2 years of research by the members of the society, taking numerous trips to the Registry of Deeds, looking at Assessor's maps, old town maps, and countless hours of back and forth conversation about where the deed might be found has virtually led to a dead end.

The Society is hopeful that by having a search done professionally, a deed or the equivalent will allow the Society to proceed with grant applications to aid in the restoration of the North Schoolhouse. Without a deed or legal document the Society is not able to obtain grants for restoration.



MOUNT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT Elizabeth Kasevich

VICE-PRESIDENT Dianne Salamon ~ Fund Raising and Publicity

TREASURER Margaret Whitbeck ~ Accountant and Historian

SECRETARY Vanessa Noble Gang ~ Research

Emeritus: Judy Whitbeck, Newsletter, Historian, Membership

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ray Kasevich, Grants and Outreach

Paul McBride, Historical Studies and Projects

John Verones, Building and Construction

Sarah Beckwith

VOLUNTEERS:

Mary King Austin, Cory Hines, Lesliann Furcht~ Public Relations

Pete Klinkowski ~ Website Administrator

mountwashingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

*Image of Painting by Margot Trout

[Mount Washington Historical Society](http://www.mountwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org)

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Mission Statement: For the protection and study of the History and Culture of Mount Washington.

Vision Statement: To create a center for preserving, studying and bringing alive the history of Mount Washington.

Purpose: The purpose of the organization shall be for the preservation of the 1868 school house, the collection, preservation and safekeeping of any articles and items of historical interest, such as personal records connected with the town, the marking of historical sites in the town as well as a place (the schoolhouse) where documents, relics and historical records related to the town may be seen and studied by the public. The Society will also preserve records of the early settlers in the area as may be necessary, useful or desirable for the furtherance or attainment of the above purposes as specified in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Links to historical societies, genealogical information, archival materials:

Great Barrington MA www.gbhistory.org

Sheffield MA www.sheffieldhistory.weebly.com

Egremont MA www.egremonthistory.org

Housatonic www.upperhousatonicheritage.org

Copake/Hillsdale/Ancram/Taghkanic in Columbia Cty, New York www.roeliffjansenhs.org

Newspaper www.newspaperarchive.com free-search

Genealogy www.massgenealogy.com

Ancestry www.ancestry.com

Join Us Now.
 Get in on the ground floor of a brand new
 (well, almost) historical society.
 You can make a difference.

 New.....Renew.....

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone #.....

Email.....

Would you like to help? Circle your choices below

Programs

Hospitality

Fund Raising

Identify Historic Sites

Oral History Interviews

Locate Memorabilia

Membership: Individual \$15.00 Family \$25.00

Sponsor \$50.00

Supporter \$100.00

Patron \$500.00

Lifetime \$1000.00

Send to: Mount Washington Historical Society, Inc

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