

The Gem of Norfolk County

FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2010

41st Year Issue #8

www.Foxboroughhistory.org

PRESIDENT:
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MAY MEETING

May 25 at 7:30 PM
at the Boyden Library
Fuller Room corner of
Bird and Baker Street
in Foxboro Center

“Glory Days of Downtown Foxborough” by Jack Authelet

FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMAN,
PATRICK LYONS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINDS UP ITS 2009/2010
SEASON WITH TOWN HISTORIAN JACK AUTHELET

Town Historian Jack Authelet believes in celebrating our past as a reaffirmation of our faith in our future. And he will do just that at the May meeting of the Foxborough Historical Society when the public is invited to join in the celebration of the “Glory Days of Downtown Foxborough.”

In these days of “instant” everything, and technology that changes with the wind, our Town Historian suggests that the triumphs and accomplishments of a few decades ago might look somewhat old-fashioned and borderline archaic. “But when viewed in the context of their times,” Authelet said, “they were marvels of ingenuity, social engineering and vision that exceeded even their expectations.”

So join Society members as they take a few steps backward to the days of self-sufficiency for families, with ice, bread, milk and eggs being delivered to your door, and having to crank the car to get it started. Learn what was really in some of those prescriptions being filled by the local druggist. Explore the emerging role for women long before the Emancipation Proclamation, the weekly temperance meetings, the patriotic banners hung throughout the business district for presidential candidates, and the influence of local business in the broader market. Meet a mail-order bride and other colorful individuals from our past and many who made significant contributions to our future.



SAMARTIAN HALL, a former school still facing the Common on School Street, seen here in 1884, featured A. J. Hartshorns Store (hats, clothing and shoes), a barber shop (men only, ladies at home by appointment) and public baths, again only for the gents. It was also the first home of The Foxboro Reporter and today is known for George's Barber Shop, Pawsmopolitan and the Common Sweet Shoppe. Many activities centered here had a lasting impact upon the community that will be explored at the next meeting of the Foxborough Historical Society. (Foxborough Historical Commission photo)

Key elements of community growth will be explored during the illustrated presentation – and questions about Foxborough history will be welcome.

There will not be any meetings of the Historical Society during the months of June, July and August. Monthly meetings resume September 28.

Evelyn Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Its that time of year when we begin our search for a qualified student to receive this year's annual Evelyn Thomas Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship, in memory of a long time Society member and benefactor, is given each year to a Foxborough resident entering their second year in college. They must be majoring in, or have a strong influence of History in their curriculum. The award this year is for \$1000 and may be renewed for the junior and senior years if grades and standings are maintained. Brochures describing the scholarship and criteria, as well as applications, are available at Town Hall and the Boyden Library. The deadline for submitting applications is July 15, 2010.



the pride of the Town and its volunteer fire department for many years. The Historical Society, working with the Foxborough Fire Department, is arranging for, and funding, the two beautiful Clydesdales to pull the apparatus in this years parade. The Steamer is normally on display at the "Steamer Shed" behind Memorial Hall.

Founders Day - Society Sponsors Steamer

This year the Society will sponsor the Town's 1872 Steamer in the Founders Day Parade. The Steamer, built in 1872 by Cole Brothers in Pawtucket, RI, was

Memorial Hall is open every Wednesday evening, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. til noon



Foxborough Historical Society Organization

President: Robert Hicks 543-5436
Clerk: Mary Anne Baker (Acting)
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Vice President: Charles Clifford 543-8403
Treasurer: Ralph Guimond 543-8270
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Directors: Jean Prendergast; Joanne Pratt; Mary Anne Baker; Charles Kastrenos
Program Committee: Patrick Lyons, Chairman; Joanne Pratt; Edna Hunt

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