

LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2009

The members were Elizabeth Colley, Vice Chair, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Sally Rouleau, Mark Schryver, Michael Sczerzen, Chair, and Jean Watson. The Commission office was closed by the town administrator and finance director February 9, 2009 and Joan Richards, Office Coordinator since 1994 was laid off. The Commission members would like to thank Joan Richards for her faithful service to the town during those 15 years. Sally Rouleau is the liaison from the Historical Commission for the Town Green Study Committee. Elizabeth Colley was liaison to the Open Space and Conservation Committee.

The Lancaster Historical Commission thanks the individuals and organizations that have adopted a town historic marker and have maintained the markers with attractive plantings during the four seasons of the year.

The Historical Commission again supported:

- the town's application for a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund, Round 15, grant for the Prescott Building, and a \$40,000 grant was awarded for the exterior work.
- The application for the historic National Landmark, Bulfinch designed Fifth Meetinghouse, First Church of Christ Unitarian Church. The First Church was also awarded a Preservation Project Fund grant.

The water trough, which originally stood on Harvard Road on land taken by Ft. Devens, has been returned to Lancaster. The water trough now sits at the Lane's Crossing, which is the intersection of Harvard Road and Seven Bridge Road.

The Commission members thank:

- Jean Watson, Commission member, for heading up the efforts to accomplish this task.
- Paul Rich and Michael Padula for assisting by moving the trough from a location on Devens to the intersection of Harvard Road and Seven Bridge Road.
- Sandy Foster, Supt of the DPW for having gravel placed to level the site for the arrival of the water trough
- Regonini Memorials for repairing and storing the damaged Lane's Crossing bronze marker, which will be mounted on the water trough in 2010.

The Historical Commission is waiting to hear from the Sewer District as to their assisting in restoring the damage to the landscape at the site caused by the construction company hired during the sewer line installation at that intersection.

The Historical Commission continues to pursue ways to bring awareness to the historic value of our six cemeteries all established prior to 1878 and is working toward putting all Lancaster's cemeteries on the National Register of Historic Places.

Accessions:

- Framed artifact, photo album circa 1953, and miscellaneous articles donated from the estate of Eve St. Ivanyi, daughter of Rev. Dr. St. Ivanyi (First Church of Christ Unitarian).
- Family information on the wife of Lt. George E. Richards, WWI who died in the influenza epidemic of 1918.
- Book by Wayne Hazen on "Mary Rowlandson"
- Book by Diane Rapaport, "The Naked Quaker"
- 1903 edition, #74 of The Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson
- 1904 edition of Lancaster on the Nashua, prepared by W. A. Emerson Assisted by J.C. L. Clark
- Photograph of the Nathaniel Wilder house on Neck Road
- Four photographs of homes located on Harvard Road, circa late 1890's