



Lynnfield Historical Commission  
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## LYNNFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The Lynnfield Historical Commission sponsored, planned, and attended three very successful events in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the 1714 Meeting House and 200th anniversary of the Town. The photography exhibit *Our Town in Pictures: A Celebration of Lynnfield*, presented in conjunction with the Lynnfield Historical Society, kicked off the year on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the date of incorporation in 1814.

Among the dignitaries attending were A. David Rodham, former selectman and former Congressman John F. Tierney. Congratulatory plaques from Senator Elizabeth Warren, Speaker of the House of Representatives Robert A. DeLeo, and Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin were presented. The exhibit was on view at the 1714 Meeting House for the celebratory year before it was moved to the Merritt Center where it is now on loan from the Historical Society. On view are over fifty photographs from the collections of the Lynn Item, Wakefield Item and Lynnfield Historical Society.

The Antique House Tour took place in September. The tour began at the Meeting House and included the Joseph Henfield House and Captain Thomas Flint House on Main Street, the Hart House and John Burnham House on Chestnut Street, and the Joseph Tapley House and Jesse Tapley House on Lowell Street. More than 125 people visited the antique homes. Floral arrangements were created by the Village Home and Garden Club and Old Town Trolley provided transportation. This event was planned to showcase the beautiful homes, further interest in future historic preservation, and create an understanding of why we cherish this aspect of our living history.

The Civil War era camp reenactment by the Fifth Massachusetts Battery (E), Light Artillery, Army of the Potomac, Inc., took place on the first weekend in October on South Common Street. Along with the sleeping and community tents necessary to support a traveling unit, the Battery featured a cannon which was fired hourly, a traveling blacksmith forge with blacksmithing demonstrations, two horses, and general camp life presentations and activities.

The Commission met with organizations and committees both in and outside of town pursuant to its mission of overseeing and preserving significant structures. Included was a meeting with the newly formed Historical Assets Team (HAT) consisting of North Reading, Reading, Burlington, Stoneham, Wakefield, Wilmington, Winchester, and Woburn commissions. As a division of the North Suburban Planning Council and Metropolitan Area Planning Council, HAT is preparing a white paper focused on the lack of a presence of long range preservation planning in the Master Plans of local towns, including Lynnfield.

Jonathan Appell, Monuments Conservator, triaged a few of the stones in West and South Cemeteries before concentrating preservation in South Cemetery. The Commission also consulted with the DPW on safe tree and limb removal in the same cemetery. New hand-painted signs provided by the Commission were installed by the DPW in Old Burying Ground, West Cemetery, and South Cemetery. Signs will be installed in Forest Hill and Willow Cemeteries in the spring of 2015.

The accessibility of the boulder marking the location of Camp Stanton/Camp Schuyler was noted as a project for a future Civil War Preservation Grant in 2015. The Commission hopes to relocate the marker from private property to a more public site. This was a very important military training camp that mustered men from five counties during the civil war and remained through most of World War I.

Research was begun on the Moses Richardson House for placement on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Commission supported the Historical Society in their campaign to save the Reverend Joseph Mottey House (Centre Farm) from destruction through purchase by the town. The Commission voted with the selectmen to offer the home for sale with a preservation restriction on the deed. The Commission is responsible to construct and oversee the restriction with the town administrator, town council, and selectmen.

Support was given to the Tree Committee for the institution of the Scenic Roads Bylaw which includes historic stone walls. These walls are designated as structures and are subject to the Demolition Delay Bylaw. Chestnut Street, Essex Street, Forest Hill Avenue, Lowell Street, Main Street, Pillings Pond Road, Salem Street, Summer Street, and Walnut Street are included in the recommendation for designation in the bylaw.

The Commission was contacted concerning the Demolition Delay By-Law by a representative for the owner of Haywood Farm. The initial inquiry was followed by actions outside the regulations of the bylaw by the property owner, Zoning Board of Appeals, and others. As a result, a significant structure in good condition and an excellent example of the farm culture of our town was destroyed. Consultations pertaining to the Bylaw were provided to the owners of 51/71 Parsons Avenue and 1282 Main Street.

Outreach by the Commission included a reply to Jacobs Corporation in regard to construction of two message signs on Rt.1 for MASS DOT, discussions with library personnel concerning support for the Design and Planning Grant, and meetings with Ted Caswell and Andy Youngren of the Capitol Facilities Committee.

The Commission attended the Preservation Mass *Most Endangered Historic Resources Awards* in Worcester and the New Hampshire Old House and Barn Expo.

Books acquired for the Commission's research library include *An Age of Barns* (Eric Sloane), *Houses Without Names and Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn* (Thomas C. Hubka), and *Save America's Windows* (John Leeke). The publications are available to homeowners searching for information on maintenance and repair of their antique homes.