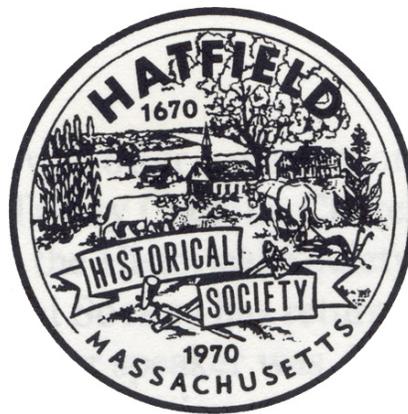


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HATFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2016 – 2017





HATFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

39 Main Street
P.O. Box 168
Hatfield, MA 01038

June 18, 2017

Dear Members of the Hatfield Historical Society,

Attached is the 45th Annual Report of the Hatfield Historical Society. The last year was particularly significant in a number of ways. First, Pat Cady, our president of the last 12 years elected to step down following a tenure that saw the Fall Festival grow into one of the highlights of living in Hatfield. Pat will continue to serve as the chair of the Program Committee and the Fall Festival Committee. Our officers, directors, museum curators, and many volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to plan and execute programs and events. Our joint meeting with the Hadley Historical Society was well attended. Town Meeting voted the funds to make Town Hall compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which means that our long-planned migration from the Library building to Town Hall is near.

Pat Douglas decided that the Society would be better served by someone else as a director because she is spending a number of months in warmer environs. We thank Pat for her service and we are happy that she will continue to be active in the Society.

Charlie Kellogg has taken on commitments that do not allow him to attend all of our director or membership meetings and he has decided to relinquish his seat as Secretary. Charlie's work for the society last year also included that of photographer and Meerstone crew member.

At the May 18, 2017, Annual Meeting, the following Officers and Directors were unanimously elected to serve for the coming year:

President:	Robert Osley
Vice-President:	Cher Nicholas
Secretary:	Martha Schurch
Treasurer:	Bryan Nicholas
Directors:	Les Labarge - 2020, Pat Cady - 2019, Amy Hahn - 2018

They will join continuing Directors Kathie Gow - 2019 and John Pease - 2018.

We hope to see you at the Fall Festival on October 1st!

Sincerely,

Robert Osley, President

HATFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Secretary's Annual Report 2016-2017

At the Hatfield Historical Society's Annual Meeting held on May 12, 2016, at the American Legion, the membership received reports from the Secretary, the Membership Committee, Treasurer, Kathie Gow and George Ashley, respectively the curators of the Historical Museum and the Farm Museum, and the Nominating Committee. The membership voted and approved the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee:

Officers:

President: Pat Cady
Vice President: Robert Osley
Secretary: Charles Kellogg
Treasurer: Bryan Nicholas

Directors:

Kathie Gow, term expires 2019
Cher Nicholas, term expires 2019

Directors Les Labarge (2017), Pat Douglas (2018) and John Pease (2019) continued in their previously elected terms.

The meeting was followed by a field trip to the Hill Cemetery and then a fascinating presentation by graveyard expert Jonathan Appell on some of the unique monuments at the Hill Cemetery as well as restoration techniques.

The Board of Directors and the Fall Festival Committee met on more than a dozen occasions to plan this year's Fall Festival. Despite inclement weather, the event was well attended, with presentations by local crafts people and artists, games for young people and, of course, food and beverages served by the Boy Scouts and the Hatfield Fire Department. Bob Osley demonstrated his skill in carving elements of colonial and federal period doorways. Sharing the tent with Bob was Bryan Nicholas, who used the Farm Museum's replica broom making machine and homegrown broom corn (sorghum) to make primitive brooms. The contributions of Avis Fusek, Terry Pickunka, Ruth Kellogg, Carol Doktor, Linda Golash, and Pat Douglas were critical to the success of the Festival under the leadership of Pat Cady.

With regret, President Cady accepted the resignation of longtime director Pat Douglas who stepped down due to her prior commitment as a snowbird. Amy Hahn was appointed a director for the remainder of Pat's term.

The November potluck supper did not disappoint. Traditional and nouveau cuisine combined with homemade desserts, to generate a tsunami of calories that wiped out many a diet. Following the meal, members shared memories of Hatfield's colorful characters and places.

Luminarium, held on the last Sunday before Christmas, as usual, offered a handful of delightful community activities, including the Society's new exhibit, titled, "It's Not Just Jewelry That Shines at the Hatfield Historical Museum." Sadly, our joint program with the Whately Historical Society in March on the impacts of construction of Interstate 91 had to be postponed. We hope to offer this program in Spring 2018.

In April, Bob Osley offered an intriguing presentation to a joint meeting with the Hadley Historical Society on how property boundaries were laid out in the mid-1600s in Hadley and what was to become Hatfield. Not limiting himself to just researching "meerstones," Bob conducted exhaustive and *exhausting* field research using historical records and satellite technology to locate more than 130 of these stones as well as the 350-year old raised earthen barriers used to keep livestock from destroying crops.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Kellogg, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
2016-2017

<u>MEMBERSHIP TYPES</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIPS</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS</u>
LIFE	38	58
SUSTAINING	8	10
FAMILY	22	44
INDIVIDUAL	32	32
TOTAL	100	144

144 members. 100 are Hatfield residents.

The remaining members are from area communities as well as several states throughout the country.

Amy Hahn, Membership Chair

May 2017

Hatfield Historical Society
45th Annual Treasurer's Report

During the fiscal year April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, the Society generated a total of \$31,058.67 from dues, donations, sale of museum items, grant funding, interest, and dividends. Expenses for the same period totaled \$26,949.53, providing a surplus of \$4,109.14. The Society had assets in the amount of \$316,837.67 as of March 31, 2017 and it had no liabilities. The Society reports on a cash, rather than accrual basis, and all regulatory filings and government reporting were compliant as of the March 31st date.

A detailed accounting of the finances of the Hatfield Historical Society, Inc. is available to members on request.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Nicholas, Treasurer
May 18, 2017

Annual Report of the Mary Lou and Robert J. Cutter Hatfield Farm Museum

May 2017

George Ashley, Curator

Once again the Farm Museum was open for visitors on Saturday afternoons from late May and until mid-October. The museum was also opened on several special occasions for classes from the Hatfield Elementary School and Smith Academy and on special request for civic groups and individuals. In the last two years, we have had many visits by groups from various "continuing care" facilities for elders, many of whom were eager to tell stories about the years they worked on farms during their teen years. The work and dedication of the people who donated their time and labor to keeping the Museum cleaned and open is much appreciated. Special thanks go to John Pease who has helped maintain the Farm Museum and greeted visitors at the Museum on many occasions during recent years.

On the first Sunday in October 2016 the Farm Museum, the Historical Museum, and the open area between them was again the site of the Historical Society's Annual Fall Festival. Even with a drizzly morning, we had good attendance to both museums and the many exhibitors. Visitors were treated to demonstrations of traditional farm and rural crafts, including corn-shelling, weaving and rug making. There were numerous exhibits by Hatfield farmers and a display of antique cars, farm machinery, and engines outside the museum. The Boy Scouts and the Fire Department had concessions selling French fries, hot dogs and hamburgers.

This last winter, the Farm Museum served as the cold weather home for many grey squirrels who made nests out of bits of cardboard and, unfortunately, some of the paper tags we use to mark items. So far this spring I have trapped about a half-dozen squirrels in "Have-A Heart" traps and transported them to a welcoming home. The spring cleaning and trapping will be completed by third week of May and the Farm Museum will be ready to re-open for the 2017 season on Saturday, May 20, weather permitting.

Hatfield Historical Museum Annual Report (2016-2017)

Another busy year under the CPA-funded Collections Management & Preservation Grant. The grant will end in December of this year (2017), so we are trying to pack a lot in. In the 120+ years that the town's collection of historic items has been amassing, it has grown to a size and importance that managing it purely through volunteer efforts is no longer viable. Nor does it allow time for expanding access to the public. As such, the Historical Society is exploring options for funding one or two part-time positions on an ongoing basis to ensure the gains that have been realized will be sustained, especially as we prepare for moving to the 2nd floor of the Town Hall. If you'd like to help on either front – ways to fund a position or planning a move, please get in touch!

Here are some snapshots of what's been accomplished in the past year:

- **Multiple new exhibits opened this past year:** “Celebrating Nature: When Beauty Was Infused in Everyday Objects,” accompanied by an adult coloring book/exhibit guide; “Copied, Plundered or Preserved: Connecticut River Valley Doorways Still Worth Saving!” and “Silver and Gold: It’s Not Just Jewelry That Shines at the Hatfield Historical Museum.” We took down the WWII exhibit, but not before holding a closing reception that drew an appreciative crowd. Oh, and though it’s technically part of the *upcoming* year, we also just opened two fascinating exhibits about Hatfield veterans in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- **Ongoing inventory of the Hatfield Historical Museum’s artifacts** into our computer database. We are now working on ceramics, tools and textiles. Both the amount of artifacts we’ve been able to catalog, and the number of exhibits we’ve been able to put up would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. Many thanks to Wunderley Stauder, Marta Bilodeau, Vivian Kinzler, Wayne Schlegel, Bob Osley, and Leslie Potter. Also thanks to all of our guest hosts!
- **Winning a \$1,500 Research Inventory Grant (RIG) from Mass Humanities** to inventory the business records of the Porter McLeod Machine Shop, donated by Richard Rescia. Our researcher completed the online Finding Aid in December 2016, rehousing 38,217 documents into 29 archival boxes, ready to be examined, now hosted on our website.



From left to right: Porter McLeod business records, after being stored for approx. 14 years in a few off-site locations; researcher Deb Blodgett used the 2 grants to turn the records at left into those at right.

- **Winning a companion grant for \$962 from MA SHRAB** (Mass. State Historical Records Advisory Board), funding supplies used to rehouse and organize the above 38,000+ documents. Prior to these grants, the records had been stored in a Historical Society member's shed for 10 years (Rick Martin), after a few years in the town garages. Many thanks to Richard Rescia and Rick Martin!

- **Winning a \$3,500 Scholar in Residence Grant from Mass Humanities** to research the Porter McLeod business records this summer. We are very lucky to have signed on Prof. Bob Farrant (right) from UMass Lowell as our scholar, since precision manufacturing in the CT River Valley is his area of study, plus he's a former machinist! Prof. Farrant will deliver a report from his findings and give a presentation at our annual meeting next May 2018. Not to be missed!
- **Expanding the reach of our collections** by creating a site on the newly formed Commonwealth Historical Catablog, providing access for researchers and the public to learn about our varied collections. This site will complement our existing digital collections, hosted on the Digital Commonwealth and Archive.org (both made possible by the CPA grant and the Boston Public Library).
- **Continued financial support by the Hatfield Historical Society and by donors large and small**, including a generous donation by the Zahn Family Foundation of Hatfield. Items funded include a museum digital SLR camera (used daily); a new computer (since our Vista operating system is no longer supported) plus a new database to go with it; and approximately 80 hours of textile conservation work by textile conservator Meg Baker.
- **Conservation of Civil War-era U.S. flag** by Cohoes, NY, textile conservator Sarah Stevens, finished May 2016, funded by the museum's CPA grant.
- **Winning a Roving Archivist Grant** from MA SHRAB, whereby the state's Roving Archivist Rachel Onuf spent a day in early 2017 meeting with managers of the town's archives –the Historical Museum, the Town Clerk's collection and the Congregational Church. We are working to implement her advice and plan to take advantage of a follow-up visit.



(L): Conservator checks Civil War flag for stray threads; (R) Rachel Onuf (center) meets with (from L): Wunderley Stauder, Lydia Szych, Mark Gelotte and Eileen Dostal. Not pictured, Kathie Gow.

--Respectfully submitted, Kathie Gow

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in the Hatfield Historical Society.

Memberships available:

- Lifetime Membership (single payment).....\$200.00
- Sustaining Membership (annual payment).....\$30.00
- Family Membership (annual payment)\$15.00
- Individual Membership (annual payment)\$10.00
- Youth Membership (annual, to age 18).....\$5.00

Checks should be made payable to the Hatfield Historical Society and sent to:

Hatfield Historical Society:
39 Main Street
P.O. Box 168
Hatfield, MA 01038

Go Paperless! In the future, if you want to receive the Society's Annual Report by e-mail (a PDF document), please send a request via e-mail to bryannicholas@comcast.net.

Thank you for your support.

Amy Hahn
Membership Committee Chairman

Name:	Email:	
Street Address:	Mailing Address (if different):	
Town, State, Zip:	Town, State, Zip:	
Membership Type:	# of members:	Preferred method of Contact (USPS or email)