

THE FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2014 45th Year Issue #7

Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Boyden Library, 10 Bird Street, Foxborough, MA
(Enter Baker Street entrance)

The Foxborough Historical Society Presents:

The Great Escape From Slavery



One of the most ingenious escapes from slavery was that of a married couple from Georgia, Ellen and William Craft. (The Granger Collection, New York, from the Smithsonian Magazine)

From the pen of Patrick Lyons:

Passing as a white man traveling with his servant, two slaves fled their masters in a thrilling true story of deception and intrigue.

Actress Marcia Estabrook portrays Ellen Craft at the Foxborough Historical Society's April meeting. Dressed elegantly in 19th century garb, Ellen Craft will make her presentation at the Community Meeting Room (first floor) of the Boyden library on the evening of April 22, 2014.

"I know you are all wondering, but are too polite to ask," Craft, in character, begins. "Why is a white woman going to talk to you about escaping from slavery?"

She explains that she had been born a slave in Macon, Georgia, the daughter of an African American mother and her white master. "I will not call him father," she said, "for he never treated me like a daughter. I was just his property."

Craft goes on to describe her life as a slave, serving her half-sister Miss Liza. As a house-slave, she was well dressed, well-fed, and never beaten.

So when her black husband, William Craft, proposed that the two of them should escape, Ellen Craft was afraid and resisted. Finally, she conceived the idea of using her skin color to her advantage.

Dressed as a white man, in December of 1848, she boarded a train for Savannah, and traveled from there to Philadelphia. Her husband posed as her slave.

In vivid detail, Craft relates the harrowing facts and close calls of the trip northward. Once in Philadelphia, the pair continued on to Boston, to Beacon Hill, the north slope of which was then called "Negro Hill" for its black community, and to their freedom.

Marcia Estabrook founded Characters Educational Theater in 1982. She has performed many interactive performances throughout the USA, Virgin Islands and Bahamas. Ms. Estabrook's highly acclaimed performances won her nominations for the prestigious "Performer of the Year Award" from the National Young Audiences organization. She also conducts workshops and serves as a historical consultant.

The historical society meeting will take place at 7:30 pm. The Boyden Library is at the corner of Baker and Bird Streets. Please enter by the Baker Street entrance, near the parking lot.

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM WILL NOT BE RECORDED FOR FOXBORO CABLE ACCESS. TO SEE THE PRESENTATION, COME TO THE MEETING.

Events of the historical society are free and everyone is welcome to attend. For further information, call 508-543-6292.

Parking is available at the library, on nearby streets and around the Common. However, **do not park in the Aubuchon lot.**

Ask a friend to join, Family = \$10.00, Individual = \$8.00/yr
Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September to November & January to May
at the Boyden Library, 7:30 p.m.

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

The **Evelyn Thomas Scholarship** is available for a Foxborough student with an interest in history.

Founders Day

This year Founders Day will be on Saturday, June 7th, 2014. Plans are to have a booth again this year at the field. Looking for volunteers to spend a few hours at the field. We will have the canopy, table and chairs.

Donations for the Civil War Soldier Statue

As of April 10, we have received \$7050 in donations to repair the Civil War Soldier Statue on top of Memorial Hall. Thank you!

50 YEARS AGO IN FOXBOROUGH

[News extracted from the Foxboro Reporter]

APRIL 1964

- New Foxboro Fernandes Supermarket opens April 7.
- Congressman Martin eulogizes old friend General MacArthur on floor of Congress.
- First Baptist Church to move from Common to outskirts.
- Murder suspect subdued in battle for gun.
- New Lutheran Church to be dedicated April 26th.
- Mrs. Annie Randall passes century mark, is Town's oldest lady.
- PTA frowns on dances for the younger pupils, going steady.
- Selectman James Hennessey retires as Director of Annual Legion Minstrels.
- Serving the community for 75 years-Foxboro Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.

- 68 cows saved as spectacular blaze levels barn on route 140 of Edward Ferenstein & Son cattle dealer.
- Democrats outnumber GOP for first time here in primary
- Newspaper censorship bills now hotbed of controversy

Foxborough Historical Society Officers & Board Members

President: Charles Clifford 543-8403 Vice President: Jean Prendergast

Clerk: Janet Roxborough 942-1482 Treasurer: Mary Anne Baker 543-8945

Directors: Past President Robert Hicks, Ralph Guimond, Joan Stafford and Lauren Bitar

Program: Patrick Lyons 543-3728

Newsletter: Paul Godin 543-7945