

THE FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2014 45th Year Issue #8

Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Boyden Library, 10 Bird Street, Foxborough, MA
(Enter Baker Street entrance)

The Foxborough Historical Society Presents:

Foxborough WWI: Up close up and personal

Prior to America's late entry into World War I, Foxborough had one nurse already caring for soldiers in France, several young men had gone to Canada to enlist and the Foxboro Co. was working around the clock making air speed indicators for British aircraft.

Nearly 2,000 people celebrated in the center of town when America went to war. They were determined to support the troops in every way they could – and they did. They blazed their way into an incredible chapter of Foxborough history, and Town Historian Jack Authelet will take us behind the headlines to share their stories up close and personal at the May 27 meeting of the Foxborough Historical Society.

Every draft quota was filled, every Victory Bond drive over the top. Hand-knit items by the hundreds to keep the soldiers warm, sacrificing food so it could be sent to the men fighting the war, and collecting clothing for the refugees in Belgium and France were all part of helping the war effort. Hear about the war from the men themselves through letters from the trenches, the thrill one had when his unit fired the first American shells at the enemy, and the anxiety of two local families, each with three sons already in the war, when the fourth started to pack his bags to go to war as well.

Every church, every organization, each group of school children did something for the war effort while preparing our own community to protect itself in the event of an enemy attack.



Lawrence Foster was our first casualty in WWI. For years, his mother yearned for answers as to how he died. Would she ever get what she longed for?

When the Armistice was signed and opposing forces laid down their arms, it was a local couple who were the first to walk through No Man's Land under the neutral banner of the Salvation Army. They spoke to troops on each side of the line in the international language of coffee and donuts! Three Foxborough men had been lost in combat and a nurse, whose unit had been nationalized for service, became Foxborough's only woman to die in service to her country, a victim of the epidemic that had gripped the nation.

The story of these families and the sacrifice they made will be featured by Town Historian Jack Authelet in his presentation.

Events of the historical society are free and everyone is welcome to attend.

Parking is available at the library. **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.

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.

Don't forget Memorial Day Events Monday, May 26 at the Common

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. Still looking for volunteers to spend a few hours at the field. Call Joan Stafford if you can help 543-6292. We will have the canopy, table and chairs and Jeff Peterson will be available at a predetermined time to sign his new book "Legendary Locals of Foxborough".

Donations for the Civil War Soldier Statue

As of April 10, we have received \$7765 in donations to repair the Civil War Soldier Statue on top of Memorial Hall. Please help if you can.

From the desk of our President Charles Clifford:

1. We are pulling together our Board of Directors ballot for the September 1, 2014 thru August 31, 2015 year. There will be some changes and the names will be ready for our August 26, 2014 Board Meeting. The Officers and the Directors will be presented for Members approval at the September 23, 2014 Meeting of the Members.

2. The Membership New and Renewal Form will be part of the September 2014 Monthly Newsletter. The dues will be the same - Family Membership \$ 10.00 - Single Membership \$ 8.00. (Include e-mail address if you have one.)

Note: Members 90 and above are not required to pay dues if a member for the last five years. Send in a completed Membership Form to stay on the Newsletter E-Mail or Mailing List. 3. We need your help in recruiting new members.. The Membership has declined a little bit the last couple of years. People are missing out on some good speakers. We have eight meetings a year and the schedule of Tuesday night meetings will be in our September Newsletter. Please call a Director, Officer or other Member with questions, thoughts and ideas,

4. The Historical Society will have a "Booth" on Founders Day, Saturday, June 7, 11 AM to 4 PM at the Booth Playground. Please stop by and visit. (No Heavy Lifting).

Thanks, Charlie C.

50 YEARS AGO IN FOXBOROUGH

[News extracted from the Foxboro Reporter]

MAY 1964

- No final exam for FHS Seniors due to a "Misunderstanding". There was an apparent mix-up of communication between the committee and the faculty. The problem was brought to the committee by two Senior Council members, Michael Melton and Kathy Belko.
- Nesting robins still bell at St. Mark's
- Frank L. Boyden, a native of Foxborough and Headmaster of Deerfield Academy, is honored at University of Massachusetts.
- Will the MTA come to Foxboro?

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

Have a wonderful and safe summer!