



# HENNIKER HISTORIAN

OCTOBER 2021 NUMBER 85

NEWSLETTER OF THE HENNIKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

## Henniker Historical Society Board 2020-21

**President:** Marc McMurphy

**Vice President/Newsletter:** Ellen Reed

**Treasurer:** Sue Fetzer

**Secretary:** Kristen MacLean

**Members:** Diane Carpenter, Deb Dow, Yolande Nicknair, Martha Taylor

## Congratulations to Tour Winners

The Kennedy Family received a gift certificate for lunch after successfully completing the Henniker Historical Society QR Code Walk. The Tucker Free Library partnered with the Henniker Historical Society to promote the new QR Codes that bring local historical markers to life. The Kennedy family answered six questions and learned new facts about the historic markers in the downtown Henniker area. Learn more about this initiative at:

<https://www.hennikerhistory.org/new-page>.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

No one must care about history. What happened is what happened. So what? Try explaining what you have learned in life to a teenager. They are the caretakers of this point of view.

As we get older though, and we begin to recognize that there is something to be learned by examining our past, we begin to care about history, both our own personal history and the history of the world we live in. Perhaps more than any other academic pursuit, history has the most to teach us.

Henniker's history is no different. Knowing our town's history helps us to understand where we live now and how we got here. It gives us a sense of place and a better understanding of who we are.

Please take advantage of the Henniker Historical Society. Read our newsletter, take our tours and come visit us at Academy Hall on Maple Street. Not only do we preserve the history of Henniker, we want to share it with you – that includes teenagers as well.

Sincerely,  
Marc McMurphy, President



(Front row: Tucker and Elijah Kennedy, Back row: Marc McMurphy of the Henniker Historical Society, Ashley Kennedy, and Lynn Piotrowicz of the Tucker Free Library)

## A Farewell to Bruce Elliott

It is with great sadness we say farewell to one the Henniker Historical Society's greatest advocates. Bruce Elliott was invaluable to HHS. He helped to create and print many of our booklets, books and newsletters. In many cases, he printed all the copies we needed. Bruce did more than most people will ever know and his generosity and advice will be greatly missed. Thank you, Bruce.

## Historical Marker Tours

On our website, our Downtown Historical Marker Tour is now available! Each of the six downtown markers has a designated QR code which you can simply print out from our website. You will need a QR scanning app on your phone. Scanning the code will bring up an audio telling you the story behind each marker. The two driving tours will be available soon. This is a fantastic way to learn more about the history of Henniker and help us commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> year.

### But Wait... There's More!

In addition to our self-guided historical marker tours, we are offering some special guided tours. Come hear the stories of some of Henniker's earliest citizens!

## CEMETERY TOUR

**October 31**

**First Burial Yard (Depot Hill)**

**Tours start every 15 minutes  
from 2-4. Free (donations always  
welcome)**

**Meet by Town Hall for shuttle  
bus to cemetery**

**Go to [www.hennikerhistory.org](http://www.hennikerhistory.org) for  
more information**

**Great opportunity to learn more about  
Henniker's early residents!**



## VISIT US ON THE WEB:

[www.hennikerhistory.org](http://www.hennikerhistory.org)

**email:** [hennikerhistoricalsociety@tds.net](mailto:hennikerhistoricalsociety@tds.net)

**Facebook**

## VISIT US AT ACADEMY HALL

**51 Maple St**

**Henniker, NH 03242**

**603-428-6267**

## BUSINESS MEETINGS

**Monthly board meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of  
each month at 9:00 am in Academy Hall. Members and  
prospective members are invited to attend**

## MEMBERSHIP

Your membership expiration is noted on your mailing label. If yours is about to expire please renew to continue to receive the newsletter and support us as we preserve Henniker history.

To renew, send \$25.00 per household, \$15 per individual or \$7.50 for seniors 65+ (checks can be made out to Henniker Historical Society) along with your name and address to:

Henniker Historical Society  
PO Box 674  
Henniker, NH 03242

**Household: \$25  
Individual: \$15  
Senior (65+): \$7.50**

## EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!

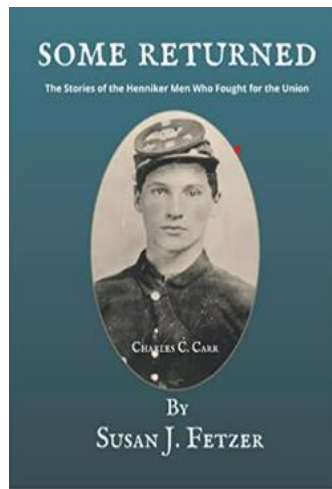
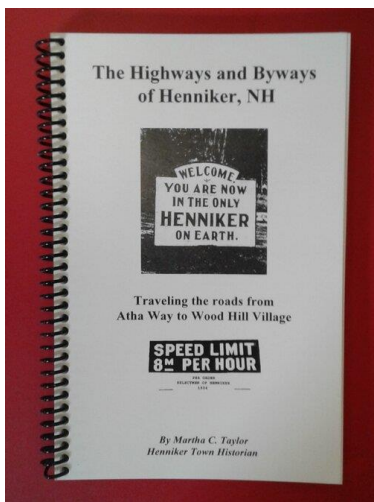
Since the beginning, HHS has mailed out hard copies of our newsletter and other pertinent mailings. Unfortunately, the world is changing and with the constant increases in postage, it may soon reach the point where such mailings are no longer economic. In preparation for the day when we may be forced to provide our newsletters electronically, we ask people to include their email addresses when you next renew your membership or with your kind contributions to our Giving Campaign. These will not be shared with anyone else. One good aspect of e-newsletters is it allows for more color and better photos! Thank you so much for your help.



Volunteer Ian Holden stands next to an historic Henniker sign. Large items that cannot be stored at Academy Hall, but represent a significant period in Henniker history, are photographed for archival storage.

## NEW BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!

Martha Taylor's newest book: **The Highways and Byways of Henniker** is now available both on our website and at the Historical Society. It's a fascinating look at the history of the roads in Henniker.



**Some Returned** by Susan J. Fetzer is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the history of Henniker men in the Civil War. Included are the stories of each man including where they lived, family, battles they were involved in and what happened after the war. Currently available on Amazon, at the Academy and on our website.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

We are always excited to receive new items connected to Henniker's history. Here a just a few of the items we have received this year!

1884 Painting of the Stone Bridge by well-known landscape artist, Alexander Pope, was donated by Sue Hanson.



A collection of 1930's baby clothes donated by Jeannine Aucoin, including this lovely handmade quilt and the story behind them (which is always the best part!)



HHS VP Ellen Reed and Jeannine Aucoin with her handmade baby quilt.

(Quiz pg. 5: 1a, 2b)

## Henniker Historical Society Hosts Representatives of the National Association for the Deaf

On a sweltering July Saturday, the Henniker Historical Society hosted members of the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) who hoped to see the homesteads of Thomas Brown. Led by NAD Board of Directors and Region II Director was Lindsay Darnall Jr. Darnall is from Nebraska and has a particular interest in NAD history -- specifically Thomas Brown. The group also included NAD members from Maine, New Jersey and New Hampshire.



Kristen MacLean (back to camera) relates the history of the Thomas Brown house to visitors

HHS board member Kristen MacLean coordinated a tour for the visitors starting with the Thomas Brown homestead on Rush Road with the current owners welcoming the guests. After a buffet lunch provided by the HHS Board, the group visited Henniker's Center Cemetery and the Brown grave sites. The visitors viewed the site of Thomas Brown's farm and then the Persis Brown Swett house, the sister of Thomas.

Sign language was the communication strategy for the event, with the HHS Board relying on interpreters and pencil and paper to enjoy the enthusiasm of their guests. In September, the Henniker Historical Society erected Henniker's 25th Historical Marker on Rush Road to recognize Thomas Brown's significant contribution to the deaf community.



Lindsay Darnall Jr. at the T. Brown grave and signing to other deaf visitors at the Brown homestead.



## Can You Match the House with the Date?



1.



2.

- a. 1850 Ramsdell Rd
- b. 1839 Western Ave.



## MUSIC ON MAIN STREET

With the return of some outdoor events, HHS participated in Henniker's annual Music on Main Street, offering our books and Cat's Meow building models for sale. In addition, we set up a quiz to see if people could match historic items with the appropriate book or pamphlet. The prize for answering the questions? A wooden nickel!



Deb Dow and Kristen MacLean at HHS booth

## NEW HISTORIC MARKER

Henniker's newest historic marker, was placed outside the old Thomas Brown homestead on Rush Rd. earlier this summer. Thomas Brown was highly active in the world of deaf education and was instrumental in the establishment of the New England Gallaudet Association for the Deaf which led to the formation of the National Association of the Deaf. A formal dedication will be held in the spring to allow for the attendance of state and national Deaf educators and officials.

### MEMBERS ONLY!

A new Members Only portal of the Historical Society website has been established. The password is **HHS2021**

Check out the virtual tour of the downtown Henniker historic markers - for those who may not be able to walk!

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**Henniker Historian**  
**Henniker Historical Society**  
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**Henniker, NH 03242**

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## **GIVING CAMPAIGN TIME AGAIN!**

Once again it's that time of the year when we ask our members to help support all the things we do to preserve Henniker's fascinating history! In the past year, we have researched numerous house histories; reorganized much of the Historical Society's archives; worked to organize all our data so that it can be transferred to the cloud and eventually made available online for research; updated our website; organized several tours including a driving tour, a murder tour, and cemetery tours. We have helped numerous people research their family histories, as well as been the recipient of precious Henniker family items of historic interest to preserve them for the future. We have published two new books; erected a new historic marker and played host to a group of deaf people interested in Henniker's own Thomas Brown.

We want to continue our work and so we turn to you, our wonderful members. Please give generously when you receive your Giving Campaign envelope. Future generations will thank you for it!