
HENNIKER HISTORIAN

AUGUST 2018 NUMBER 73

NEWSLETTER OF THE HENNIKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Officers 2018-19

President: Kristen MacLean

Vice President: Diane Carpenter

Treasurer: Ron Taylor

Secretary/Newsletter: Ellen Reed

OFFICERS ELECTED

On June 20th, we held our annual meeting and potluck at the Congregational Church Parish Hall. New officers were elected, the speaker from the Mt. Kearsarge museum presented an interesting talk on Native Americans, and delicious food was plentiful.

Next year's officers include President: Kristen MacLean, Vice President: Diane Carpenter, Treasurer: Ron Taylor, and Secretary: Ellen Reed.

We are always looking for new board members, so please contact us if interested.

Raffle Results

Thanks to everyone who helped support the Henniker Historical Society and Museum by purchasing tickets to our quilt and bank box raffles. Your contributions help to preserve our Henniker history.

Winners of the Quilts: Peggy Gendreau
Roseanne Heitz

Winner of the Bank Box: Heidi Galster

CONGRATULATIONS!

VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED!

The Henniker Historical Society is in great need of volunteers to help us with various activities required to maintain our records and artifacts. This doesn't require large blocks of time, but we do need help with recording and organizing artifacts as they are donated, scanning photos, helping with events such as booth sales, etc. If you'd like to meet some great people and learn more about our town in the process, this is a great place to get involved!

Just call or email Deb Dow at 491-6686 or dgdow2000@yahoo.com for more information

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Henniker's 250th celebration was a success with all events having an excellent turn out despite the rain. The town's guests: the honorable Janie Henniker-Major and historians Geoffrey and Janette Robinson apologized profusely for bringing the inclement weather with them from England. Our guests were incredibly social, genuinely interested in town history and eager to share the history of Henniker's namesake. Come in to Academy Hall to view the gorgeous plate that was gifted to the historical society from the original Lord Henniker dinnerware set circa 1800.

Traveling to the UK in the future? You can visit the ancestral grounds of the Henniker-Major family at Thornham Estate in Suffolk, England. See you there!

-Kristen MacLean



A Gift from Lord Henniker



The Honorable Jane Elizabeth Henniker-Major, the special guest of honor at Henniker's 250th Anniversary and sister of Mark Henniker-Major, the current Lord Henniker, generously presented the Henniker Historical Society and Museum with a piece of the first Lord Henniker's baronial china, dating from about 1800. The town of Henniker was named after the father of the first Lord Henniker. The family motto on the plate, *Deus major columna*, translates to *God is the greatest of supports*.

The plate will soon be on display in the museum.



The Honorable Jane Elizabeth Henniker-Major with British historians, Janette and Geoffrey Robinson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Historical Society is always in need of volunteers to help us in our mission to preserve Henniker history. No experience is needed! New board members are also needed. So, if you have some spare time you'd like to donate, please contact Deb Dow at 491-6686.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.hennikerhistory.org

email: society@mettelecom.com

Facebook

VISIT US AT ACADEMY HALL

51 Maple St

Henniker, NH 03242

603-428-6267

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Monthly board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9 am in Academy Hall. Members and prospective members are invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership expiration is noted on your mailing list, 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 \$5.00 (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

Henniker 250th Celebration

In 1768, the town of Henniker received its charter of incorporation. Originally, the settlers asked for the town to be called New Marlboro since so many of the settlers had come from Marlboro, MA. Governor Wentworth, however, overruled this request, instead naming the town after a friend of his, a wealthy London merchant by the name of John Henniker, Esq., thus making us “The only Henniker on Earth.” Today, 250 years later, Henniker continues to be a vibrant and active community as evidenced by the number of residents who turned out for the Sestercentennial celebrations despite the pouring rain. Join us as we recall some of the fun activities provided by Terri Trier and her hard-working band of volunteers.



The weekend's events began on Friday, August 3rd with a Kick-off Party and fireworks at Pat's Peak. Due to the heavy rain that evening, there was some concern that the fireworks wouldn't happen, but people showed up and with a break in the precipitation, the show went on as scheduled. (Photos by Gwen Airgood)

Again, rain Saturday morning put the big parade in doubt, but Mother Nature took pity upon us and the weather cleared long enough for the parade to take place. The crowd was light, but enthusiastic.



Float Winners: **Most Henniker Spirit** Edmunds Hardware; **Most Community Spirit**: Boy Scout Troop 76; **Most Artistic**: Azalea Park; **Most Elaborate**: Pat's Peak; **Most Patriotic**: Hollyhock Florist



Grand Marshall, The Honorable Jane Elizabeth Henniker-Major and Honored Guests, Janette and Geoffrey Robinson

Costume Winners: Best Woman's: Heather Shaw. **Best Men's:** Chris Bemer (in the carriage); **Best Children's:** Taylon Poulin and Abbi Gould; **Most Unusual:** The horse guy pulling the Country Spirit Carriage.



Because of the rain on Saturday, vendors and other events were moved into the ice arena at NEC. Activities included a sack race, a 3-legged race, a partner carry race, tug o' war, and a beard and mustache competition.





On Saturday evening, there was a reunion at Daniel's Restaurant for all former Cogswell Memorial High School students and teachers. The event was reportedly well attended.

On Sunday, there were still two more events to round out the weekend. In the morning, there was the sold-out Breakfast on the Bridge, held on the NEC covered bridge and a barn dance at the Colby Hill Inn in the afternoon. Sources say, Jane Henniker-Major was the last to leave the dance floor and was absolutely thrilled by the warm welcome she and the Robinsons had received during their stay in Henniker. It was a great weekend!



Thanks to Pam Airgood for the use of her several of her photos from the 250th Celebration

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LOOKING FOR OLDEST HENNIKER RESIDENT



Sadly, with the passing of our most recent Boston Post Cane recipient, Janice Walsh, we are once again looking for Henniker's current oldest resident to receive the Boston Post Cane. The only requirement is that they must have lived in Henniker for at least five years. If you know of someone you think might qualify, just email us at society@mcttelecom.com or call 428-4267 by **September 10, 2018**.

The tradition began in 1909 when the publisher of the Boston Post, Edwin A. Grozier, sent 700 gold topped canes to towns throughout New England to be presented to each town's oldest male citizen. The cane was then passed on to each new recipient. In 1930, women were made eligible to receive the cane. Today, Henniker's recipients get to keep their canes.