



# WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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September 2016

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## 1916 U.S. Presidential Elections – 100 years ago

We welcome Marc Rouleau as our guest columnist this month. He's unearthed some interesting information from the elections a century ago!

This fall Americans prepare to cast ballots for a number of state and national offices, including



*Charles E. Hughes*

that of the President of the United States. Voting is one of the most important duties for a citizen of our country.

It increasingly feels like each successive Presidential election is "the most important election" of our lifetimes, if not of that of the Republic.

A look at past campaigns shows that sentiment was held across the generations.

In 1916, 100 years ago, the Presidential contest was primarily between the incumbent Democrat, Woodrow Wilson, and the Republican nominee, former New York governor Charles E. Hughes. Hughes, a member of the Supreme Court since 1910, resigned in 1916 so he could be on the Republican ticket.

Wilson won his first Presidential election four years earlier when former President Theodore Roosevelt entered the race as a third party (Bull Moose) candidate and split the Republican vote.

Roosevelt sat out the 1916 election.

One of Wilson's main campaign themes was "he kept us out of war," that is what would become World War I, which started in Europe in 1914; as well as the Mexican Revolution. Hughes criticized Wilson's support of certain factions in the Mexican conflict, as well as "pro-labor" laws enacted during Wilson's first term, including one limiting the workday to eight hours, on the grounds that it was harmful to business.

A record 17.7 million votes were cast that November; some of this gain was due to the extension of suffrage to women in several states, though nationally women were not guaranteed the vote until 1920.

The 1916 election was also the closest in electoral history. A majority (at that time) of 266 electoral votes was needed and Wilson prevailed 277 – 254. Hughes won 18 of the 48 states, but the final results were not known for several days, as it took that long to get the counts from the West coast states.

California, a much less populous state at the time, was won by Wilson by less than 3,800 votes out of nearly one million cast, in a state where the Socialist and Prohibition candidates took over



*President Woodrow Wilson*

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**2015-2016  
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**MEETINGS**

Meetings are held November through June  
 on the 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm  
 and are free and open to the public.

**HOUSE & GIFT SHOP HOURS**

The Historical Society House is open  
 Mondays 7-9 pm, Tuesdays 1-3 pm,  
 Fridays 9-12 Noon.  
 and other times by appointment.

**MISSION**

The Westminster Historical Society's mission is  
 to save and share Westminster's past.



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Even though the sun still gives us hot days and we occasionally need fans and air conditioners on, school has begun and a new season is upon us. Isn't it funny how, long into adulthood, we still think of September as a time of new beginnings? Everyone's school days inevitably left long lasting impressions. It was time for a new start, a new teacher, and new schedules to learn. Nowadays September may mean a new school bag with new gadgets to put inside - possibly a new computer, iPad, or smartphone.

At the Historical Society, we're gearing up for a new year too. Enclosed in this newsletter is the Calendar of Events for the year. We hope you'll be able to attend some of our programs this year. You may find that one of the topics we're delving into piques your interest!

We're also excited about increasing our visibility in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Westminster Cracker Festival. If you and your family are in town that day, take a look at our front lawn. You'll wonder what's happening inside! The fireplace will be blazing and we'll be cooking over it. Come and taste the goodies and take part in the activities for children and families.

Our Annual Meeting is Friday, Oct. 28 – a time to reflect upon our accomplishments this year and look forward to the year ahead. This year we'll be holding it at the American Legion Hall on Main Street where the meal will be catered. Join us if you can!

And, do enjoy the last days of summer before the "new" season begins.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hannula,  
 President

**WISH LIST**

- Computer with at least Windows 8 operating system
- Printer/scanner



## CURATOR'S CORNER

We are grateful to persons who have donated items to the Historical Society for preservation. Collections are at the heart of what historical societies do. We can make a stronger connection to people when we have things they can touch. This is true especially in the classrooms where there seems to be less emphasis on history.

*John Aalto:* Tophet Club pins which belonged to his father;

*Mark Destro:* photos of tunnel which used to be at 41 Turnpike Rd, bottles;

*Eileen Goguen:* vintage valentine, Bakers Dairy Bar applications, Frank Fenno documents, Westminster Pharmacy classified ad., "Educational Problem" document, painting entitled "Morning Visitor" by Lois Mossman Howard;

*Bette Roy:* carding machine used with llama wool

*Westminster Woman's Club:* silver service used at Westminster Woman's Club meetings;

*Darlene Wildes:* photo of M house on Knowler Road.

### *Can you identify this woman?*

*I like to feature interesting donations to the Historical Society. This painting, given to us Eileen Goguen, is entitled "Morning Visitor." Eileen lived in the Howard house on State Road West and this painting was in the house. Lois was born in 1887 and painted most of her life, but we have no idea who this woman is. Maybe you have an idea? If so, please contact us!*



## CUPPING AT THE OLYMPICS

With all the talk about cupping by athletes at the Olympics, it may be interesting to learn that this practice has existed for centuries. In the Historical Society collection are cupping paraphernalia used by Finnish women to heal all kinds of ills. The equipment was called *kuppa sarvet*, translated to horn cups. It consisted of cow's horns and a razor, all stored in a cloth bag with a drawstring on top.



*Kuppa sarvet used by Maria Ilves in Westminster and donated to the Historical Society by Irene Kamila, her niece.*

A small cut was made at the appropriate places on your skin and then the horns were placed on those spots and the person performing the procedure sucked on the horn to draw out the blood and the ills they believed were present. One woman in the Finnish family had the necessary skill and inclination to perform the task, and it was always done in the sauna which was the most sterile place in the household.

It's interesting how things come around and around!

## SKI SEASON WILL BE HERE SOON

It's hard to believe that snow will arrive in just over two months! Wachusett Mountain Ski Area has been very supportive of local non profit organizations by donating \$5 for every ski ticket purchased on line.

When you plan your trips to Wachusett, click on "coupon" and type in "HISTSOC" and you will be supporting the Historical Society. Thank you!

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70,000 votes. Had Hughes prevailed there, California's 13 electoral votes would have turned the election.

In that election, Massachusetts gave its 18 electoral votes to Hughes. In Westminister, MA the vote was 166 votes for Hughes, 67 for Wilson, plus 6 votes for Prohibition candidate Frank Hanly, 1 vote for Socialist candidate Allan Benson, and 0 votes for Socialist Labor candidate Arthur Reimer. Twelve ballots were left blank.

After the election, Hughes went on to become Secretary of State under President Harding, and in 1930 returned to the bench, this time as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He died in 1948.

Despite the "he kept us out of war" campaign, the United States entered WWI in April, 1917. That war ended in November 1918.

After the war, Wilson was personally involved with the Peace Conference in 1919 (for his efforts Wilson received the Nobel Peace Prize) and with the promotion of his "League of Nations," a forerunner to the United Nations. Unknown to the public at the time, Wilson suffered a stroke in October 1919; he was able to finish his term. Wilson died at his home in Washington, D.C. in 1924.

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## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

### GAMALIEL WALDO BEAMAN

Len Haug, a Princeton resident, is working on a book on "The Life and Work of Artist Gamaliel Waldo Beaman."

Len has been working with the support of the Westminister Historical Society and the Princeton Historical Society as well as with a number of area libraries (including the Westminister Library) on gathering information about the artist who lived from 1852 to 1937.

Beaman was primarily a landscape artist who specialized in scenes of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and the West. He is sometimes associated with the Hudson River Valley and White Mountains Artists largely due to his limited pal-

ette. Many of his early works included locations in and around Westminister. In his latter years, he did a few still life paintings as well.

Len is compiling a comprehensive list of all of Beaman's paintings. Len is asking for any member who has or knows of any individual who owns an original Beaman painting to please contact him directly at [leonardahaug@gmail.com](mailto:leonardahaug@gmail.com) or to pass the information on to Betsy at the Westminister Histori-



*Mount Monadnock as seen from Mount Wachusett  
by Gamaliel Waldo Beaman.  
Hanging in Forbush Library*

cal Society.

Len would like to photograph or obtain photos of such paintings along with titles, locations, and dates of such paintings. Credit in the book, scheduled for publication in the next 24 months, will be given for such images.

Beaman is an under appreciated artist who deserves more recognition. We were pleased to be able to share all the information we had on Beaman. Jeannette Sullivan, a long time member of the Society with strong connections to Princeton including being a friend of the Beaman family, had donated articles, letters and photos for our collection, including a pencil sketch by him. Among them is a rare photo of the artist in his studio, a wonderful find for Len.

Len will be grateful for any information he can add to his upcoming book.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

If you're not yet a member, please consider joining today. It's easy. Just fill out the form below and send it along with your check to the Historical Society. Your membership support is essential to us.

Thank you if you have already renewed their membership this past year. If you are unsure of your status, just call Kerry at the office (978-874-5569). You will want to be a member in order to take advantage of the ten percent discount on all items in the Gift Shop. If you are 75 years of age, your membership is free!

### WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual	\$25
Family	40
Senior (over 65)	15
Contributing	50
Friend	100
Honorary (over 75)	0

All members receive a 10% discount in the Gift Shop.

Please contact me about volunteering. These are some of my interests:

- Sorting, cleaning, and cataloging items.
- Putting data about items into a computer database.
- Helping with newsletters and brochures.

Please send form to Westminster Historical Society, Membership Committee, P.O. Box 177, Westminster, MA 01473.

## IN MEMORIAM

We will miss Patricia Lasky, a long time member of the Historical Society. She served as our historian of the Society since her retirement from teaching in the Westminster Elementary School. She loved history and enjoyed her many years with Westminster residents. We will miss her.

## WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

When looking for a unique gift for birthdays, anniversaries, and other holidays or special occasions, be sure to browse the WHS Gift Shop. Whether shopping for yourself or someone on your gift list, you are sure to find the perfect gift here. The Gift Shop is open on Mondays 7-9 pm, Tuesdays 1-3 pm, and Fridays 9—noon and other times by appointment. Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

### Books

<u>Cemetery Inscriptions</u> . . . . .	25.00
<u>History of Westminster, 1832</u> by Hudson . . . . .	5.00
<u>History of Westminster, 1893</u> by Heywood. . . . .	96.00
<u>History of Westminster 2008</u> by WHS . . . . .	95.00
<u>History of Westminster, 1961</u> , by Tolman . . . . .	20.00
<u>Homestead Heritage of Westminster</u> , by WHS . . . . .	50.00
<u>Images of America</u> , by WHS. . . . .	20.00
<u>Olin Warner, Sculptor</u> , by Hyson . . . . .	4.50
<u>200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Westminster</u> , . . . . .	5.00
<u>Wajusett Gatherings</u> , by Sinclair (hardcover). . . . .	30.00

### Other

<i>Wachusett Mountain</i> charcoal print . . . . .	60.00
Calligraphy sampler . . . . .	12.00
<i>Cracker Factory</i> print by Dana Vickery, signed . . . . .	45.00
Pen & ink of <i>WHS house</i> by Santora . . . . .	5.00
Map of Westminster 1855. . . . .	6.00
<i>Downtown Westminster 1831</i> by Peckham . . . . .	30.00
Postcards . . . . .	50
Children's books . . . . .	4.95
Paper dolls, Assorted . . . . .	5.00
Westminster Tapestry wall hanging . . . . .	35.00
Tobacco Shed pottery (last of the line!) priced as marked	

## POSTCARD PROJECT

There's something very nostalgic about old postcards. Sometimes it's the view of a very familiar spot at an earlier time. Sometimes it's a surprising look at something that we never thought was unique enough to have been put on a postcard. Or, sometimes it's the message fit into the small square on the address side of the card.

We have a few people working on a very exciting project – creating a book of old postcards of Westminster. We've been busy making sure all the postcards in our collection are entered into our database, and will then begin choosing ones for the book.

If you are interested in helping with this project, or if you have Westminster postcards which you think could add to this books, please contact Betsy Hannula at 978-874-0430.

One neat thing about old postcards is the occasional surprise, like this one of the Revolution-



Revolutionary Soldiers' Monument at Westminster, Mass.  
PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS, CO. GARDNER, MASS

ary War monument. Who knows where it is in Westminster?

Unless you visit the cemeteries on Memorial Day with the veterans in the morning before the parade, you probably don't know. It's in Woodside Cemetery.

This postcard also shows Joseph Hager, a very prominent public spirited person in town, born in 1823, but living at least through the writing of Heywood's History in 1893. As we understand it, he paid to erect this monument in honor the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War.

## CELEBRATING A 100th BIRTHDAY

Dolly Rhoades celebrated her 100th birthday in July with a party at the First Congregational Church. She received congratulatory decrees from the Governor of Massachusetts and the President of the United States. The Historical Society also presented her a certificate in honor of this extraordinary achievement.



*Dolly Rhoades on her 100th birthday*

When we met with Dolly last year, we were interested in why her family left the state of Maine to come to Westminster. She shared some of her experiences in the past 100 years, coming from a small town in Maine so that her father could work at the "new" Gardner State Colony close by. Apparently, the state had advertised in local newspapers in Maine to get persons to work at the Colony, and her family was one of them.

The Historical Society is interested in being part of these special occasions honoring persons for achievements. Please contact the Society if you know of anyone!

## JUHANNUS PROGRAM: LOCAL ARTISTS SHARE THEIR WORKS

The Juhannus program celebrates Finnish heritage in Westminster each year in June, when a bonfire and programs were traditionally held at the Farmers Camp on Leominster Street.

This year featured Finnish artists, and we were overwhelmed by how much wonderful art had been created in the past several decades!

Included in the display were works by Thor Carlson, Lisa Wuoti, Alex Waronen, Alan Waronen, Bette Roy, Bob Walker, Linda Malizia, David Kaski, and El-lie Jansson,

We learned by the end of the evening that most of the Westminster artists represented were rather quiet individuals and did not exhibit their works



*Lisa Wuoti spoke about her art.*



*Bob Walker's painting of his brother Gary holding his son Derek., entitled Stone Mason and Son.*

on a regular basis. We felt privileged to have folks open up to us and share their intimate ideas about themselves and their art.

## TENT

*Roly Boucher and Eddie Hannula took a break after setting up a new tent on a platform in the back of the Historical Society house. This will be used to store large items like furniture and sports equipment for the Attic Treasures Sale on September 24.*



## UPTON UPDATE

Work on the roof on the Upton School will finally begin this winter. The Board of Directors voted this summer to hire Skyline Engineers of Ashburnham to replace the broken and missing slates and secure all of the rest of the slates. They are using a process that has been successful for more than twenty years in projects they have completed in places throughout the county.

The cupola will also be removed and replaced with one identical to the original, and the beams inside the attic will be reinforced and stabilized.

The Society has contracted with Phil Warbasse and Associates as the architect for the project. Look for more information this fall.!



Westminster Historical Society  
110 Main St., P.O. Box 177  
Westminster, MA 01473

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Attic Treasures Sale: Sat. Sept. 24**  
**Westminster Cracker Festival: Sat. Oct. 22**  
**Annual Dinner and Meeting: Fri. Oct. 28**  
**Christmas Flea Market; Sat. Nov. 19**  
**Members Christmas Family Night: Fri. Dec. 2**  
**Christmas Open House & Sale: Sat. Dec. 3**

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### **ATTIC TREASURES SALE**

There's still time to donate items for the Attic Treasures Sale on Sat. Sept. 24. Items may be dropped off inside the barn or in the tent behind the Historical Society house.



Featured will be vintage and antiques, household items (things should be worth more than a dollar), furniture, books, sports equipment, etc. We appreciate everyone's support and look forward to a great day of bargain shopping!

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### **WESTMINSTER CRACKER FESTIVAL**

Main Street will be hopping on Sat. Oct. 22, when the second annual Cracker Festival will be held. Scarecrows will line the street and the Historical Society will have its fireplace going and activities for everyone. Please join us!

### **MEMBERS' FAMILY NIGHT**

The theme for this year's Christmas Members' Family Night will be the celebration of the Christmas holidays with French traditions. Board member Marc Rouleau is planning some unique activities for all family members to enjoy, including foods to make and taste.



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### **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & SALE**

Our annual Christmas shopping and visiting event will be Sat. Dec. 3. Stop by for a cup of cider or coffee and shop for Westminster-related items in our Gift Shop for that special person on your list who loves Westminster!