

# THE GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Preserving and promoting the history of Georgetown

Spring 2019 Newsletter

## **THE DANIEL E. MOULTON HOUSE**

The historic building at 51 West Main Street, last known as Sedler's Antique Village, has been sold to a developer. The plans are to raze the historic Mansard-roof carriage house and ell to make way for condos. While we are sad to see another piece of our history destroyed, we are at least grateful that the front portion of the house will be saved and, we hope, restored.

Daniel E. Moulton was born in West Newbury in 1821. He married Rebecca Sawyer in 1849 and the couple moved to Georgetown, where Daniel worked in the shoe industry. Their only child, Ellen Augusta, was born in 1850.

Daniel bought a vacant lot of land and had the house built circa 1857. As his wealth grew, the house became more ornate, including the addition of the mansard roofs. When daughter Ellen married merchant tailor and Civil War veteran Hamilton L. Perkins in 1869, the couple lived in the house with her parents. The household continued to grow with the addition of Ellen and Hamilton's daughters, Florence, born in 1872, and Luella, born in 1877. By the time of the 1880 Federal Census, an Irish domestic servant was also living in the house.

After laboring in several different shoe factories, Daniel became a partner with Samuel Little around 1860 under the firm name of Little and Moulton. It eventually became the largest boot and shoe manufacturer in town, employing about 100 men and women, and producing around 50,000 pairs of boots and 100,000 pairs of shoes a year. Daniel also invested heavily in real estate, buying vacant lots and building tenement houses in the downtown area for the many shoe factory workers. In his later years, Mr. Moulton was one of the largest land-owners in town. He was also actively involved in town affairs, serving on the Board of Selectmen and as a constable, as a Trustee of Georgetown Savings Bank and as an active member of the Odd Fellows.



**51 West Main Street with Mansard roofs added**  
(photo from Sedler's Antique Village)



**51 West Main Street before the addition of the Mansard roofs** (photo courtesy of Dan Meader)

On May 7, 1888, Daniel was severely injured in a gruesome accident. He and another man were plowing a field west of the train station; Daniel was leading his horse while the other man guided the plow. The horse, spooked by the chains and whiffletree striking its legs, bolted. Daniel held on for dear life as long as he could, but eventually lost his grip, was trampled by the horse, then dragged and gashed by the plow. He died of blood poisoning one week later at the age of 66. His widow sold the house the following year.

## ***ANTIQUES APPRAISAL NIGHT***

It's spring cleaning time again, time to get rid of all that old stuff cluttering up your attic, basement or garage. But wait, haven't you wondered if those old "family heirlooms" are worth anything? Do you suspect that garage sale find may be worth much more than you paid? If so, we welcome you to have your treasures verbally appraised at our **Antiques Appraisal Night**. We once again welcome the entertaining and informative antiques appraiser **Dan Meader** of McInnis Auctioneers. The event will be held at the First Congregational Church of Georgetown on **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-9 p.m.** Admission is free, but for those wishing to have items appraised, the cost is \$5 per item with a limit of three items per person.



## ***A NOTE FROM OUR GHS PRESIDENT***

The winter has passed and spring is here in all her glory. Very soon we will be putting out the call as we ready the museum for this upcoming season. The museum will be open to the public before we know it but our first visitors and, in some aspect, our most important visitors will be the third-grade classes from the Penn Brook School for their yearly field trip. Having the students visit the property is always an exciting time for us as we begin our season in earnest and we always want the museum to look its very best for them. Once we have established the cleaning dates we will let you all know and hope you will stop by and see some old friends and lend a hand if you are able.

As Spring has come to the Brocklebank property please stop by and see our gardens as they begin to bloom. Spring flowers are blossoming and we are underway with the continuance of the landscape project begun last year. Over this past winter the Beautification Committee spent several weeks writing a grant for the creation of historic kitchen gardens inside the fence and although we were not successful in receiving this particular grant, we are committed to continuing our landscape project and seeking out other funding sources to make this design a reality. I would like to take this time to thank Mary Saunders, Sylvia Johnston, Eileen Seaberg and Karen Brockelbank for helping me with this grant writing project. Creating historic inspired kitchen gardens like these will not only add another educational level for the museum's visitors but will also help to enhance the look of the property. In addition to adding plantings we plan on sprucing up the fence; the rainy humid weather at the end of last summer and into the fall prevented us from completing this project. The fence project will complete the tie-in from the house painting project which was completed last year and looks so beautiful with our ongoing landscape efforts. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to join us in working on the landscape or if you would like to donate plant materials.

As always, feel free to reach out with any recommendations or concerns you have regarding the museum, the gardens or Georgetown Historical Society in general. We welcome and value the support of all of you, our members.

If you have time, we welcome your participation in any and all ongoing projects.

*Betsy Moran*

## ***TOWN MEETING MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>***

Please show your support of GHS at the annual Town Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Georgetown Middle/High School. We have requested a \$16,000 Community Preservation Act grant to re-do the ell and shoe shop roofs and to replace three windows in the attic of the Brocklebank Museum.



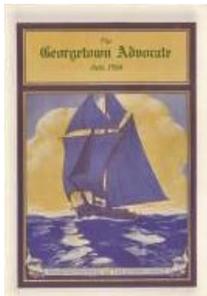
## **GEORGETOWN LIBRARY 150 YEARS AGO**

The original Georgetown Peabody Library opened its doors to the public on July 3, 1869 after being officially gifted to the town early that year, along with 2,400 books, by wealthy philanthropist George Peabody. The library was located at the rear of what is now the East Main Street parking lot and is how Library Street got its name. Unfortunately, the location proved to be a bad choice due to its proximity to wetlands and dampness issues ensued. It was eventually demolished and a new library was erected on Lincoln Park, opening in 1909.



**The original Georgetown Library building**  
(Photo courtesy of Dan Meader)

## **NEW DIGITIZED RECORDS AT THE LIBRARY**



We are happy to announce that the Georgetown Peabody Library has added some new records to their digital archives, which are searchable online.

The *Georgetown Advocate* was a monthly community magazine published by the First Congregational Church from December 1921 to November 1925. It contains many articles of historical and genealogical interest.

Digitization of these and many other historical Georgetown records, including early newspapers and town records, was made possible through historical preservation grants from the Community Preservation Act.

## **GEORGETOWN REMEMBERED**

We are starting a new column for this newsletter that will continue every issue with your help. This has come out of two town residents reminiscing about Georgetown in the '50s as they remember it. One story led to another, and they thought that maybe some of these stories should be written down. Recent events are history in the blink of an eye.

Andrew LeBlanc and Joe Corcoran would like to talk to anyone who has memories of Georgetown in the '40s and '50s. Nothing long or elaborate, 15 or 20 minutes would help us continue a brief "Remember This" column for the newsletter.

As examples of what Andrew and Joe are thinking of....

*"I remember the original fire tower on Baldpate Hill. Access was through the Baldpate Hospital grounds, past the Inn and up the hill. My father worked summers there. The tower seemed so high then, but the new replacement is much taller. You could see the ocean to the east and Boston to the south. As kids in high school, we would hang out up there. There were blueberries to pick and a deck just under the room at the top. Nobody seemed to care that we were there."*

*"I remember coming home from school on the bus, probably in '53 or '54. They were moving a house down Jewett St. It became the Harris house. It's located next door to Fazio farm. The house was being moved from the area near the corner of Jewett and Jackman streets to make room for the ramp for the new overpass."*

If you have a question or a memory to share, please call Andrew LeBlanc @ 508-633-2161 or Joe Corcoran @ 978-352-3169.

## ***HELLOS AND GOOD-BYES***

We extend a warm GHS welcome to our newest members Andrew and Jessica Frongillo, Luke and Megan Burnett and Margot and Chuck Kingston.

We were very sad to learn of the passing of long-time GHS member Elizabeth Thomas in January. She and her husband, Dick, were active members of GHS for many years. A special service of remembrance will be held on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, time to be announced.

## ***FREE HOUSE HISTORIES***



Have you ever wondered about the former inhabitants of your historic home? If so, you can learn about them simply by requesting a free house history, available to all current GHS members living in Georgetown. These histories are not the same as the Elm Street and Village District histories prepared for the Georgetown Historical Commission. Ours include a full deed search, census, vital records, maps, newspaper articles, etc. Please e-mail GHS at [georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com](mailto:georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com) to request your free house history. If you know anyone in Georgetown who owns a historic home, please encourage them to join GHS for their free house history. New members must join at the Contributor (\$50) level or higher in order to qualify.

## ***CORPORATE DONATION PROGRAMS***

Does your employer offer a matching gift or similar charitable program? Some corporations even extend these programs to their retirees. If your employer offers such a program, we hope you will consider making your annual contribution go even further by enrolling.

**15,000 Companies  
Match Gifts...  
Does Yours?**

Please check with your HR Department  
to find out if your gift can be matched!



We would like to remind our members and friends that you can help the Georgetown Historical Society just by shopping online at Amazon through their “Amazon Smile” program. Now even easier than before, you can go directly to Georgetown Historical Society’s unique link, <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0359121>. It doesn’t cost you any more money, and Amazon donates a small percentage of your sale amount to GHS. Check out: <http://smile.amazon.com/> for more information on their program. THANK YOU to all GHS members and friends who have already designated GHS as their charity of choice through the Amazon Smile program.

## ***TIME TO RENEW YOUR GHS MEMBERSHIP!***

Thank you to all our members who have already sent in their membership renewals! If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2019, we hope you will do so very soon.

A membership form is included with this newsletter for your convenience, or you can pay online by visiting our website, [www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com) and clicking on “Join the Society.” If you are unsure of your membership status, please e-mail us at [georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com](mailto:georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com).



Georgetown Historical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 376, Georgetown, MA 01833

Membership Form

Name(s) included in membership \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help GHS “go green” and save money. Please send my newsletter by e-mail.  Yes  No

Membership Levels:

- \$200 BENEFACTOR(S)  \$500 LIFE (One-time payment)  
 \$100 SUSTAINER(S)  
 \$ 50 CONTRIBUTOR(S)  
 \$ 30 MEMBER(S)

Optional:

- I would like to make a donation to Georgetown Historical Society’s Homer Tapin Memorial Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Your membership fee and scholarship donations are tax-deductible. Please make all checks payable to: Georgetown Historical Society.*

Optional:

I would like to help as a GHS volunteer (check area(s) of interest)

- Museum tour guide  Fundraising/Merchandise sales  
 Newsletter  Executive Board member  
 Special events  Other \_\_\_\_\_



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## *Georgetown Historical Society*



### **OFFICERS**

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- VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com) to see more information about GHS, upcoming events and Newsletter Archives
- E-MAIL US AT: [georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com](mailto:georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com)