

THE GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From the President

It has been a tough couple of years for Georgetown landmarks. Several early buildings have been lost and/or are in the process of demolition - either deliberately or by neglect. Please note the photos herewith as they are some of the last images of buildings that have been familiar to residents of Georgetown for generations. These buildings, however humble, are witnesses to many of the historic events over the past century and in some cases two centuries. As most of us have seen in the past week or so, some of them can vanish literally in a twinkling, overnight.

We have made an attempt, with the Georgetown Historical Commission to have demolition delays or offer alternative plans for these structures of lesser significance and marginal structural merit. However, these repairs take a lot of TLC and dollars to make them meet modern codes for current structural loads, egress, and other safety and environmental factors. As long as insurance companies offer incentives to demolish, as opposed to repair, and banks refuse to lend to older homes (and homeowners) based upon their obsolescence, we can expect to see more of these "tear downs." We need the legislature to continue to offer compliance alternatives and tax breaks, as well as some additional financial incentives by whatever means possible for preserving these endangered historic structures.

The Community Preservation Committee has been working hard to enable us to repair the historical society's Brocklebank House, Shoe Shop School House, Union Cemetery fence, Murch Park and other vital landmarks, so we have to be thankful at least for those victories.

One way in which we could help memorialize these places would be, in addition to documenting them with photos and drawings of floor plans, etc. would be to do a



Parish Rd House, Georgetown, MA

brief history and reminiscence of each. We would encourage any interested members, citizens and students to contact the GHS if they information on these places and would like to help in any way to preserve these Georgetown memories.

Frederic C. Detwiller, GHS President.

(Additional photo's on page 2)

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Vanishing History By Rick Detwiler

Several homes and historical structures are being demolished deliberately or due to neglect.



143 Main St. Georgetown



94 Elm St. Georgetown



Barn 185 West Main St. Georgetown



West St. Georgetown

Upcoming Events & Brocklebank Museum Schedule

Trails & Sails Sep 18-19 & Sep 25-26, 2010

The Brocklebank Museum will be open to the public during the annual Essex County "Trails and Sails" event. Trails and Sails is an area event of more than 100 historic sites open to the public for FREE. For more information, please visit the Trails and Sails Website at <http://www.essexheritage.org/ts/index.php>.

Georgetown Days Sep 2010

The Brocklebank Museum will be open to the public during the annual Georgetown Days celebration. Enjoy the Ice Cream Social and Scavenger Hunt and learn about Georgetown history.

<http://www.essexheritage.org/ts/index.php>.

Museum Visited Invaded by 3rd Graders

By Barry Crawford. Photos by Rick Detwiller

... from Penn Brook Elementary that is. Over 130 3rd graders came to visit the Brocklebank Museum and learn about life of centuries past.



Bev Knapp explains what life was like for 8r olds back in the 19th century



A continuous stream of 3rd graders experience the 1668 Brocklebank Museum

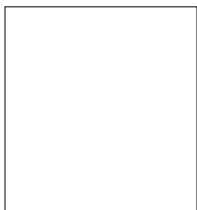


Steve Keene demonstrates how shoe pegs were used to assemble shoes in the 1880's.



Starr Anderson regales the kids with stories of old school house life

A big thanks go out to GHS members Starr Anderson, Steve Keene, Ed Des Jardines, Chris Comiskey, Beverly Knapp, Terry Hart and Rick Detwiller who made this special event a terrific success!



The Georgetown Historical Society
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Georgetown Historical Society

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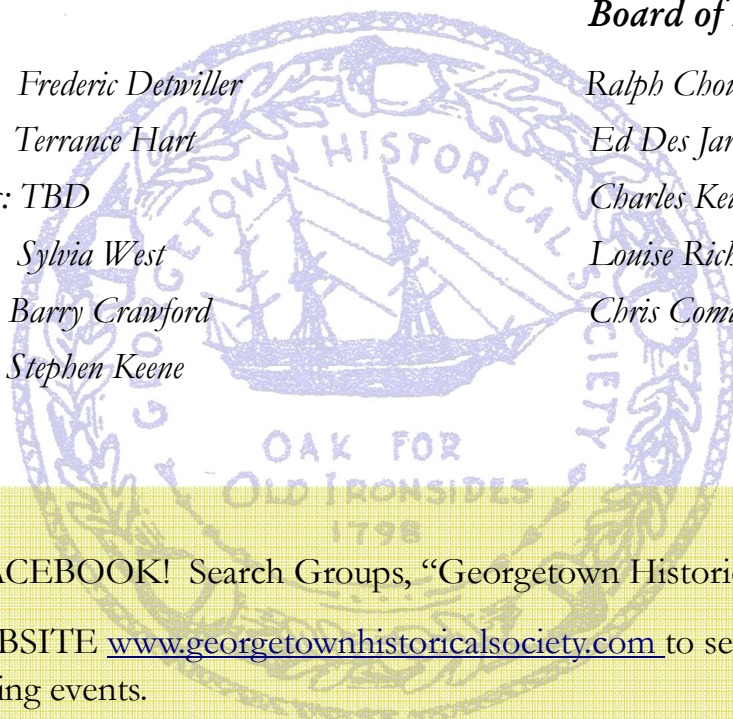
Ralph Chouinard

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- VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com to see more information about GHS and upcoming events.
- EMAIL US info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com with your interesting stories of Georgetown or questions about GHS.