

THE GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Preserving and promoting the history of Georgetown

Fall 2016 Newsletter

THE DONKEY AND THE ELEPHANT

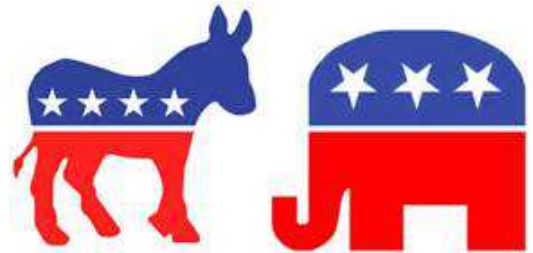
We see these symbols everywhere these days, but do you know how these two animals came to represent our major political parties?

The donkey was first associated with the Democratic Party in 1828 when Andrew Jackson was running for President.

Although opponents referred to him as “the jackass,” he embraced the symbolic donkey for its steadfast and determined nature.

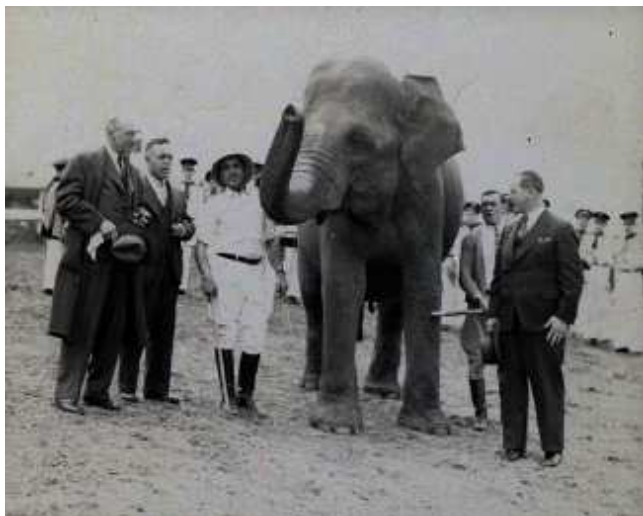
The elephant was first associated with the Republican Party in two cartoons in the pro-Lincoln newspaper *Father Abraham* in 1864, representing Union victories during the war and later republican victories in state elections. “Seeing the elephant” was a phrase commonly used by Civil War soldiers when describing their first experiences in battle.

Both symbols were forgotten for a time, but were revived by *Harper’s Weekly* cartoonist Thomas Nast, a Republican with a strong dislike for a group of northern Democrats known as Copperheads. The donkey made its first appearance in a Nast cartoon in 1870, representing the Copperhead press and its treatment of Lincoln’s recently deceased Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, depicted as a dead lion being kicked by the donkey. In 1874, Nast depicted the Republican vote as an elephant running scared from a donkey in a lion’s skin, representing the Democratic press. From that time on, thanks to Thomas Nast, the donkey and the elephant have come to represent those two parties.



DID YOU KNOW....

....we had these two symbolic creatures right here in Georgetown? The Hickory Tree Wild Animal Farm, which operated in Georgetown from 1939 to 1942, had an elephant named Jewel. Local Republicans liked to pose for publicity photos with her at election time. Feeling left out, the local Democrats purchased a donkey which they donated to the farm. They named her Eleanor, after first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.



Photos of Jewel the elephant and Eleanor the donkey courtesy of Joan Tramer Lorente

ENDANGERED GEORGETOWN



Another historic home in Georgetown is under threat of demolition. 45 Central Street is currently on the market as a “fixer-upper” for \$220,000. The selectmen are discussing the possibility of purchasing the property and tearing down the house in order to expand the parking areas for Town Hall and the Public Safety Building.

The house was built circa 1840 by housewright Edwin Carr, who built a number of other houses around town. It was later owned by John A. Lovering, who in 1838 became the first chairman of Georgetown’s Board of Selectmen.

Should the Selectmen decide to go ahead with the purchase, it will likely be on the fall town meeting warrant.

ENDANGERED GEORGETOWN – A PARTIAL VICTORY

The John and Martha Palmer house at 2 Tenney Street was built in the early 1800s by house builders John Palmer and his son, John Palmer, Jr. John Sr. had purchased the property in 1777 and lived in the house at 6 Tenney Street. He deeded a few acres and the old house to John Jr., probably around the time of John Jr.’s marriage in 1807, and built a new house for himself and Martha on the corner of Tenney and East Main Streets.



The historic house was purchased by Charles and Dorothy Blanchard in 1948. Charles and Dorothy were well known and active members of our community. Charles passed away in 2012, Dorothy in 2015.

A local developer purchased the property and applied for a demolition permit for the house, barn and garage. Thanks to the diligent and persistent efforts of members of the Georgetown Historical Commission and Georgetown Historical Society, the house has been saved from demolition. It was recently purchased by a local builder who plans on rehabbing it while retaining its historical features. Unfortunately, we were unable to save the historic barn, which dates back to the mid 1700s.

TRAILS & SAILS 2016

We had two wonderful weekends for our Brocklebank Museum Open House and Union Cemetery Scavenger Hunt as part of “Trails & Sails 2016.” People from all over Essex County and beyond visited. Congratulations to Adam Wuelfing, Lace Wohlman, and the Phillips family, who were the winners of our prize drawing for those who participated in the Scavenger Hunt. We extend a big THANK YOU to Nunan’s Garden Golf and Kallie’s Kones, Pomodori, and Jeff and Maria’s for their donations of gift cards for our drawing.

We wish to thank all our wonderful volunteers who helped welcome guests and keep an eye on things at the museum and school house: GHS Board members Ed Des Jardins (who held an art sale in the parlor and donated a portion of his sales to GHS), Sylvia Johnston, Lew Harrold and Chris Comiskey; GHS members Phil Trapani, Bill and Miriam Boylan and Betsy Moran; and Georgetown High School student volunteer Joshua Richards



CEMETERY TOURS

It's that time of year again! Whether you prefer to learn about local history or are looking for macabre tales for Halloween, we have a cemetery tour for you!



October 22 and 23 at 2:00 pm. Join GHS President Chris Comiskey for a historical tour of Georgetown's Union Cemetery on East Main Street. Learn about early soldiers and ministers, slaves and abolitionists, and the young victims of a tragic epidemic. See the evolution of gravestone carving since 1732 and learn about early burial customs.

October 29 and 30 at 2:00 pm. Join Chris and the Grim Reaper for a glimpse at the macabre side of Georgetown's history. Hear about witches, ghosts and ghastly deaths, including a murder (and a most surprising murderer!) while touring Georgetown's historic Union Cemetery.

Cost of admission for each tour is \$5, with all proceeds going to the Georgetown Historical Society.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Meeting of the Georgetown Historical Society will be held on Wednesday, December 7th at 7 pm in the Georgetown Peabody Library meeting room. Our special guest speaker is Reverend Dr. William Boylan, a local minister, historian and radio personality.

We hope you will join us for this annual social event. The meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We extend a warm welcome to Rachel and Robert Bancroft, Andrew and Judy LeBlanc, and Kerry and Matt Racki, who joined the Georgetown Historical Society in the past few months.

SHOP AT CROSBY'S MARKET, HELP GHS!

GHS is now participating in the Crosby's Market "Bagging for the Environment" program. Just bring re-usable bags when you shop at Crosby's. At check-out, make sure they use the bags, and ask for your tokens if the clerk forgets to give them to you. Place your tokens in the GHS canister, located on a shelf at the front of the store. A percentage of their sales will be donated to GHS.



With Christmas shopping season fast approaching, we would like to remind you 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.



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