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# NEWSLETTER

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Volume III, Issue 1

February 2005

## President's Message

*Dena Love, President*

### Heritage Weekend a Big Success

The fall into winter months were hectic and busy times for us. The Heritage Weekend, October 23-24 was a great success, with many people sharing their treasures to create wonderful exhibits focusing on the four selected areas. Each exhibit was very special; we had artifacts, documents, pictures and audio visual material to enjoy. The Society wishes to thank each person for sharing their treasures for without your generosity the weekend would not have been so memorable. Special thanks to Green Mountain Auto Club for bringing their cars for us to enjoy and appreciate. I am looking forward to next year's Heritage Weekend. If you have any suggestions, please contact us.

### Barn Tour

The barn tour did not generate as much interest. We wish to thank the people who opened their very special barns and gave of their time. The tour was carefully planned, but something interrupted its success. Again, thanks for your support.

### Victorian Holiday Open House

The Victorian Holiday Open House was a marvelous event. The festival of wreaths had a wonderful diversity, firmly establishing our creative talents. There were also new handcrafted and collectible items, a white elephant table and lots of good food. The evening was made special with a performance of High School students under the direction of Melinda Speidel and Dominck Russo. We appreciate all of your donations and thank you for your participation.

### Cambridge Circa 1940 Calendar

The crowning event was the unveiling of our calendar *Cambridge Circa 1940*. We must give a big congratulations to Marjory Ridler for her skills at producing such a nice collection of historic scenes of our village. The directors appreciate everyone's participation in making this fundraiser such a wonderful success.

## Collections Committee

*Cindy Gottry, Chairperson*

The committee is enthusiastically moving forward with our goal of cataloguing and organizing our extensive collection of clothing, linens, and quilts. In the process we are discovering some wonderful items that deserve their own future exhibition space for the community to enjoy.

### Great Progress on Quilts and Closets

Our first goal is to organize the closets for storage before we can perform a detailed inventory. To that end Alex Bass bravely spent a couple of days standing in the quilt closet breathing Minwax Polyurethane fumes and sealing the cedar shelving for our quilts!

A remainder of equally determined members risked latent allergies working in the dusty cedar closet to create a semblance of order. Great progress was made!

A suggestion was put forth to divide into 2 textile sub-committees: one for quilts and one for garments. The committee also hopes to tackle the cleaning and inventory of the barn and basement.

Feel energetic? Call Cindy at the museum and join the fun. There's always something interesting to do and learn.

### Ideas for Lectures, Exhibits, Workshops

Ideas are flowing for lectures, workshops, and creating more exposure for the Museum. Some ideas include: hosting an American Girl Doll Tea Party for pre-teens in conjunction with an antique doll display and lecture; a quilt display and workshop; herb gardening seminar and wreath making workshop; and a book repair workshop.

We're looking for anyone with particular knowledge or expertise in antique dolls, band box paper dating and construction, and herb and wreath making. Join the fun.

*Cambridge Historical Society and Museum*

12 Broad Street  
Cambridge, NY 12816  
(518) 677-5232

## Every Tuesday 10am-2pm

The museum is closed for scheduled tours until **May 2005**. The committees are using the time to get their work programs completed to be ready for the season. If you have any time to volunteer or have a special need, stop by any Tuesday from 10-2 or call us at 677-5232.

## Committees & Programs

The subjects for this year's programs are now being considered. If you have any suggestion for programs, exhibits, or workshops, let us know.

### 2005 Committee Chairs

**Curator** - Dena Lowe  
**Archives** – Mary Anne McAvoy  
**Building** – Beaver Ross  
**Collection** – Cindy Gottry  
**Fundraising** – Marjory Ridler  
**Grounds & Garden** – Pam Jackson  
**Membership** – Bob Headwell  
**Publicity** – Ken Gottry

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has undergone some changes. Judy Blunk resigned effective January 1, 2005. We will miss her greatly. New members Adriano Manocchia, Alex Bass, and Cindy Gottry are looking forward to a productive year.

Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm and are open to the public. The schedule for 2005 is Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Sep 7, Oct 5, and Nov 2. To add an item to the agenda, please contact us.

## Membership Committee

*Bob Headwell, Chairperson*

This year members will be receiving a *dues due* letter on their anniversary month of joining the Society. We are not saying that our membership list is 100% accurate but we are trying. Please be patient with us.

Your membership and good work allows the continued collection and preservation of the history of our community. This work is important in keeping our history vital and giving pride in our heritage.

Check out our new web site at  
<http://CHS.gottry.com>

## Archives Committee

*Mary Anne McAvoy, Chairperson*

In 2005 the Archives Committee is focusing on the history of the Cambridge Historical House. There were nine different owners of the empty lot from 1830 to 1869 starting with Philip Blair. In 1869 John E Smith bought the property and, it is believed, built the house and lived in it for five years. He sold it to Roxie S Wildman in 1874. Her daughter, Mary Gardner, inherited the house. In 1887 she sold it to William McKie. His daughter, Katherine M McKie inherited the house and lived there until she died on May 2, 1928.

Kate McKie was a lady of distinction, possessed considerable wealth living in late Victorian elegance in her Broad Street home. She was a member of St Luke's Episcopal Church, a charter member of the Cambridge DAR Chapter, active in the Red Cross in WWI, a director of the Mary McClellan Hospital and founder of its Women's Auxiliary.

This is only a portion of the history. We have a great deal more to discover. In addition to putting together the history of the families who owned the property and lived in the house, we will document external events of the times, from the social, political, economic, and cultural perspectives.

## Garden Committee

*Pam Jackson, Chairperson*

An ancient proverb predicts *He who plants a garden, plants Happiness*. The garden committee will meet at the Museum on Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 10AM to plan its 2005 garden projects. We hope to plant happiness while making our museum, and Cambridge, more beautiful.

Now that the side and back yards are cleared, we're ready to plant and we need volunteers and ideas. We're also looking for ideas on garden-related Open House activities for 2005.

Have you seen the lawn fountain in your back yard? It used to adorn the lawn of the Rice's Seed Complex. Now we're looking for ideas to incorporate it into our garden.

All interested volunteers are welcome. Just show up on the 15<sup>th</sup> or contact Pam Jackson at the Museum

### 2005 Officers

**Dena Lowe** - President  
**Mary Anne McAvoy** – Secretary  
**Tina Imhof** – Treasurer

