

Newsletter

(508) 358-7959

<http://www.waylandhistoricalsociety.org/>

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Founded in 1954

John Heckscher, Editor

The Grout-Heard House is open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30 – Noon

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Wayland Historical Society is celebrating Black History Month in February with an exhibit on Slavery in Colonial Wayland and Sudbury at the Town Building. Funded by a grant from the Wayland Cultural Council, the exhibit showcases documents of local slavery that have never been viewed publicly. Researcher Jane Sciacca and Curator Lois Davis have assembled a wealth of information on slaves and slaveowners who once lived in Town. Highlights include a property deed for the sale of a two-year old girl from a Sudbury landowner to a woman in Framingham, an emancipation paper, excerpts from wills and diaries and a map featuring houses and locations where slaves once lived. Make a point of dropping by the Town Building to view this little-known chapter of Wayland history. It provides a new perspective on our “Puritan Village!”

THE “NOT SO PURE”-ITANS

Attorney and historian Diane Rapaport sheds new light on the Puritans, who were a lot more interesting than their drab images might suggest. Her new book, *The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England*, is an entertaining collection of true cases from the colonial court records. The title story in *The Naked Quaker* involves a 17th-century Quaker woman who showed her contempt for Massachusetts Puritan authorities by taking her clothes off at church services! Another true story in the book features colonial Sudbury and the controversy over siting a church at the location of today’s First Parish in Wayland. It is hard to imagine that imposing corner in the Town Center as the scene of a nasty brawl between neighbors – but be assured, it was! Other court cases about colonists from all over New England are gathered in ten chapters filled with historical tidbits and just plain fun. Join us for Diane’s insights from the book and refreshments on Sunday March 9 at 2:30 in the Raytheon Room of the Wayland Public Library. Reminder: Daylight Savings Time begins!

WHEN A HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS “MADE IT”: PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

I am going to keep my remarks brief this month. I was going to write about what a treasure the Grout-Heard House is, but I have just returned from the House and seen breath-taking photographs taken by Judy Canty Graves, and I have concluded that one picture is worth a thousand words. I have reason to believe that her pictures will be shared with a wider audience soon. Every Historical Society in the Commonwealth values one thing above all else – a home of its own. And our Home is stupendous, serving as Town museum and repository of all things Wayland and wonderful. It also was a home for almost two hundred years to one family – the Grout-Heards – and their spirit still inhabits the rooms. And by the way, I am concerned that the

proposed traffic light in front of the Grout-Heard House will make it difficult, if not impossible, to turn into our driveway to visit if you are coming from the North. You didn't think I had totally forgotten about the new Town Center and its impact on the Old Town Center, did you?

WAYLAND IN THE CIVIL WAR: ON-LINE

In 1989 the newly created Local Studies Center, directed by Nancy Ashkar and Jo Goeselt working out of the Grout-Heard house, created a series of field trip and classroom units for elementary school grades as well as providing help for middle and high school students with independent research. One of these units, the Civil War unit, started in 1991 as an after-school program in the Mellen Law Office, was expanded and set up as a kit for teacher use for fifth grades with the assistance of the Local Studies Center. It was met with enthusiasm by the teachers. It involved student research, role-playing in the classroom, a bus tour of Civil War-related sites, and culminated in a reunion presented to parents at the Grout-Heard house. Artifacts and documents of individuals whom the students researched were on exhibit and interpreted by them to their parents.

The Civil War unit was continued but requested less frequently without Nancy's driving force. Bobby Robinson, longtime loyal Wayland Historical Society member then heading the Mass. Studies Project at UMass/Boston sought to use our Civil War unit as a model curriculum for use across the state. "This curriculum was unique in its emphasis on the town itself and its role in the Civil War," Bobby recently explained. "A resource existed in a Memorial Book prepared in 1870 in lieu of a Civil War statue. The book is filled with personal information, interviews, letters and a diary of the men who served in the war." Bobby felt that other school systems and teachers could link up their studies on the Civil War with their own communities using the web link as a guide. Students in other towns could be encouraged to do independent research and become local historians. Check out the results at their website: <http://www.msp.umb.edu/localmodels/Wayland/CivilWar> or access it through the Wayland Historical Society's link on its website.

WHS AIDS THE WAYLAND VETERANS BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

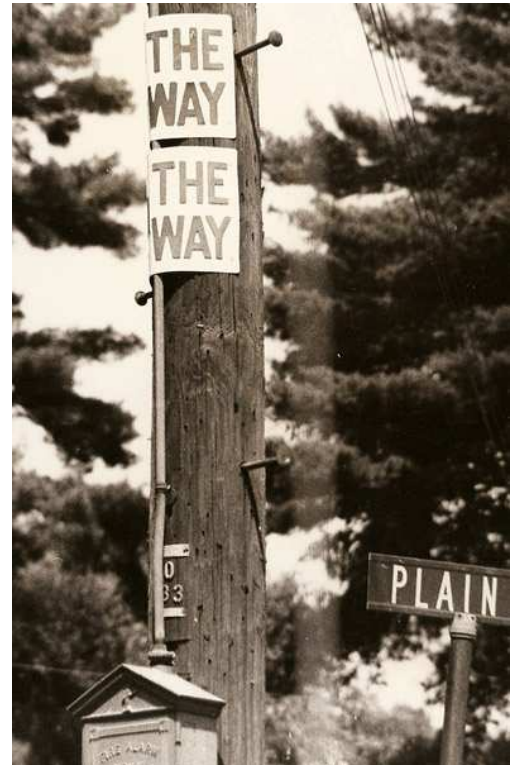
As WHS members, you may have noticed the frequent mention of the Wayland Historical Society lately in the local press and elsewhere. The resources of the Society were in evidence recently inside a brochure about the Wayland Veterans Memorial Book of Remembrance mailed to all Wayland households. The picture of George Dickey, the first Wayland man to die as a soldier in the Civil War, was featured prominently inside the brochure. Upstairs in the Grout-Heard House is a large oil painting of Dickey from which the picture was reproduced.

The Book of Remembrance has been a work-in-progress for at least three years while the compilers have used the several lists of veterans in various wars from the Revolution forward that the WHS holds in its files. There's little doubt that a book of this type could be completed without the resources of our Society. Reconstruction of the past becomes so much easier with the use of our organized data, including pictures, letters and documents.

Since the bulk of the Book of Remembrance consists of personal stories from men and women in 20th century conflicts or from the memories of close relatives, the contents will be most useful for future researchers who will visit the Wayland Historical Society.

It is the hope of the Veterans Memorial Committee that members of the Wayland Historical Society will lend support to their labors by pre-ordering their 200-page book for \$25 sometime in the next two months, before it becomes available in April. Interestingly, their P.O. Box 57 happens to be just underneath our #56.

THE WAY



Photographs by Peter Hines, Wayland High School Project

If you moved to town after the 1970's, you may be surprised to learn Wayland once had a municipal bus service. Spurred by the Seventies' oil shortage and a League of Women Voters speaker's warning that "the private car is a luxury we must now question," the spring 1975 Town Meeting approved the bus service and appropriated \$12,000 to fund the experiment.

The bus was named The Way, after more than 100 people participated in a contest, submitting entries as whimsical as The Wayflower, The Bussle and W.O.W. (for Wayland on wheels). The Transportation Committee designated four routes to be covered by two school busses on Tuesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Congressman Robert Drinan and State Rep. Ann Gannett spoke at the opening ceremonies on October 11, 1975.

Although the free service had been described by proponents as sorely needed by the elderly, who made up a tenth of the Town's population, and the Town's children, who totaled 33%, in fact the service failed to catch on. As the brief experiment ended, one person said The Way mostly took young babysitters and their small charges downtown to buy candy.

2008 DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Date-Time-Place</u>	<u>Event</u>
February Wayland Town Building	Exhibit on Slavery in Colonial Wayland Jane Sciacca & Lois Davis
Sunday, March 9 th , 2:30 p.m. Raytheon Room, Wayland Public Library	The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England – Diane Rapaport
Friday, April 11 th , 8:00 p.m. First Parish Church, Wayland Center	Transatlantic Crossings – Chamber Music by Musicians of the Old Post Road
Tuesday, May 13 th , 7:30 p.m. Grout-Heard House, Wayland Center	ANNUAL MEETING, plus exhibit of Alfred Wayland Cutting never-before-seen photos Leslie Karpp & Edmund Hamilton Sears, V

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