

Newsletter

(508) 358-7959

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

Vol. 31, No. 5, July 2008

Founded in 1954

John Heckscher, Editor

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

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTS 2008-2009 BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Nominating Committee (Marge Baston, Tilly Close and Jane Sciacca) presented the following slate of candidates to the Annual Meeting on May 13, 2008. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was elected unanimously.

OFFICERS (one-year term): President - Jane Sciacca; Vice-President - John Heckscher; Secretary - Margery Baston; Treasurer - George Ives; Assistant Treasurer - Ann Pratt; Curator - Lois Davis

DIRECTORS (three-year terms): Ending 2009 - Roger Backman, Aida Gennis; Ending 2010 - Michael Short, Joanne Davis; Ending 2011 - Tilly Close, Kate Jenny

President Emeritus & Membership - Richard Hoyt

Curator Emeritus - Jo Goeselt

TRUSTEES OF FUNDS (one-year term): Perry Hagenstein, Jim Ashkar, Debby Jones, George Ives

Changes from last year: **OFFICERS** – No changes; **DIRECTORS** – Terms ending 2008 expired (Lynn Poisson & Tilly Close), terms ending 2011 commenced (Tilly Close & Kate Jenny); **TRUSTEES OF FUNDS** – No changes.

MESSAGE TO ALL WHS MEMBERS!

The unprecedented and welcome increase in membership this year (see next page) calls for celebration but also some explanation about the number and letter after your name on the address label...If you have “09” followed by a letter (A, F, C or P), your dues are paid up through April 30, 2009. No further dues payment is necessary until after that date. If “08” appears (e.g., 08F = Family membership for this past year, 2007-2008), you would be prepared to renew your yearly dues after you receive your Program Book in the fall when the reply envelope will be attached.

Several members paid their 2008/2009 dues ahead when they received the all-town mailing of the invitational brochure. We thank them but wish to avoid confusion later on when they receive the Program Book for 08/09 without the usual reply envelope attached.



LEILA SEARS ESTATE

A recent letter from U.S. Trust, Bank of America, informed the Society that, under the terms of the will of Leila Sears, the Wayland Historical Society has been left one piece of furniture. A picture of the item was included and is shown above. According to the appraisal that was done for the estate, the piece is “a desk of the American Chippendale period, slant-lid design having an interior fitted with cubby holes and small drawers. Circa 1700’s in age.” The desk, which Ms. Sears told us had belonged to Judge Edward Mellen, will be coming to us soon from Ms. Sears' home in Pomfret, Vermont.

Judge Mellen's home where the desk was used for many years is located next door to the Grout-Heard House. Ms. Sears was the great granddaughter of Judge Mellen. She was elected Wayland's Town Clerk in 1952 and served for twenty years.

A second letter from U.S. Trust announced that the Society is to be the recipient of a portion of the residue of the Leila Sears estate. Settlement of the estate is not expected to occur prior to November of this year.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Favorable publicity about our programs at the start of the Society’s year, especially the tour of the Mellen Law Office, the Open House, and later the slavery exhibit in the Wayland Town Building, resulted in 36 members joining the Society this year for the first time. This is a substantial increase over the six new members who joined last year.

Near the close of the Society’s year an attractive invitational brochure was designed, printed and mailed to every Wayland household, to create greater town-wide awareness of our Society, its Grout-Heard museum, and the services we offer to the community (e.g., elementary education, genealogical research, history). Spearheaded by Tilly Close and Margery Baston, this effort resulted in an additional 37 members, for a total of 73 joining over the past year. Our total membership now stands at 252.

SUMMER INTERN

Wayland High School junior Kennis Forte will work at the Grout-Heard house this summer. Kennis will begin digitizing some of the Society’s extensive collection of photographs, using a scanner and laptop.

**Wayland Historical Society
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