

# Andover Historical Society Brings Oral History Project To Museum

By Susan Norris

Andover Historical Society

When the Andover Historical Society Railroad Museum opens for the season on Memorial Day weekend, it will feature an Oral History Exhibit. The exhibit will include excerpts from nine recent interviews with longtime Andover residents accompanied by photographs.

One of these nine is Frances Woods Huntoon, the current holder of the *Boston Post Cane* as Andover's oldest citizen, pictured here with her husband, Joseph Huntoon, on their wedding day in 1936. Who are the other eight? Visit the Museum to find out! It opens on May 27 and is open on Saturdays from 10 to 3 and Sundays from 1 to 3 through Columbus Day.

## Do You Love A Mystery?

Additionally, there will be a "History Mystery" series of uncaptioned photographs for viewer identification with prizes awarded at the end of the summer for the most successful sleuths.

An enormous amount of time, energy, and pleasure have gone into preparing this exhibit on the part of six Andover Historical Society members. Those who worked gathering the information and images for the exhibit are



Frances and Joseph Huntoon on their wedding day in 1936.

Sarah Will, Mary Anne Broshek, Joanna Sumner, and Susan Norris. George Upton digitally copied over fifty photographs, and Paul Glorioso did the layout and mounting of the exhibit.

The Historical Society is indebted to our nine generous and wonderful interviewees and the volunteers who worked so hard to make this exhibit a reality. We are very excited about this enterprise and hope you will be, too!

## HIGHLAND LAKE GRANGE HALL

By Shirley Currier  
Beacon staff

The Highland Lake Grange, No. 88, Patrons of Husbandry was organized in East Andover on December 14, 1876. The first master was John B. Wadleigh. There were many masters, too numerous to name, that followed in his footsteps.

My memories of the East Andover Grange Hall started in late 1943 when my family moved to Tucker Mountain in East Andover. My mom and dad, Elsie and Perley Henderson, were soon members of the Grange. They held many of the offices and worked on many projects.

Dad and Mom visited granges over all the area. Once a year the Highland Lake Grange invited other granges to their meeting. This was always followed by an oyster stew supper. I remember how everyone looked forward to having oyster stew. I think probably crackers and dill pickles were part of the menu, too.

The Highland Lake Grangers put on great parties for the young people in town. We marched around the Hall on Halloween in our costumes while the judges picked winners. Then we bobbed for apples, played games, and had a great time.

The Halcyon Priscilla 4-H Club held their square dances, shows, and the famous

box socials at the Hall. The girls packed a basket supper, and the boys bid on the baskets. The highest bidder ate dinner with the girl who had prepared the basket. A square dance always followed supper.

The Hall was used for weddings, wedding showers, baby showers, Christmas parties, card parties, and dances. Every event in town that needed a place to meet was held at the Grange Hall.

The Grange and the Church held suppers in the upstairs. The ladies cooked the food in the kitchen. The men were kept busy carrying food, water, and anything else the ladies needed. The young people waited on tables and then ate their meal and helped clean up.

The Hall was sold to the Andover Congregational Church on December 17, 1991. The Church is trying to give the "old girl" some much needed repair. If you remember all the wonderful times that we shared at the East Andover Grange Hall, perhaps you can open your heart and your pocketbook and donate to the restoration fund.

Donations may be sent to the East Andover Grange Hall Restoration Fund, David Jewett, PO Box 36, East Andover 03231, or stop by the bake sale to benefit the Fund on Sunday, May 21, at 11 AM.

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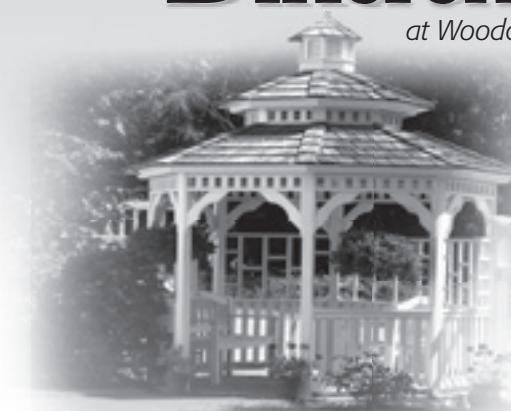
To all the folks who helped us move into our new location at 9 Johnson Lane in Cilleyville – to Dick Powers and the Blackwater Bridge Group, LLC for working so hard to make the space ready, to Henry and the boys for lug-ging box after box up and down the stairs, to Ricky, Pete, Dan and many others who helped with "the big stuff," to the TDS Telecom techs for keeping our wires from getting crossed, and to our clients who have been exceedingly patient with our relocation. Stop by and say hello!

Jay and Robin

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