

ANDOVER HIGH ALUMNI

By Judy Perreault
Andover High School '53

Most of this information is from *History of Andover from 1900-1965* written by Ralph Chaffee.

Prior to 1900 any education beyond common school or eighth grade was at private expense. There were several private schools in the area which filled this need. The Tyler School on Taunton Hill (College Road) in East Andover, The Noyes School in the east end of Andover which is now part of West Franklin, The Highland Lake Institute in East Andover (in the old Grange building) and the Academy at Andover (today's Proctor Academy).

Many students attended these schools as well as similar schools in surrounding towns. In 1898 the town voted to pay tuition of town students to attend high school at Proctor Academy. This included boys and girls. A few students on the east end elected to attend Franklin High School.

At one time Andover students represented three-fifths of Proctor's total enrollment. The arrangement continued until 1930, when Proctor Academy decided to make the school a boarding school for males only. This created a large problem for the Andover school district.

After three years of debate the town decided to build a high school in Andover which was built in 1934 at a cost of \$29,981.71. In the previous four years, the boys had continued to attend Proctor, and the Andover Girls School was started in a room over the fire station. At first it was grades 9 and 10. In

1932 grade 11 was added, and in 1933, grade 12 was added. In June of 1934, Andover Girls School graduated its only class of six students. Is anyone from that class still around?

The new Andover High School opened in the fall of 1934 with 24 boys and 35 girls. Fourteen students were attending elsewhere and were allowed to finish at those schools. By 1938 everyone was expected to attend Andover High School.

Tuition students were accepted from Wilmot, Danbury, Salisbury, and Grafton. In 1946 an addition was added to the high school. I arrived in 1947 and took up residence in the new addition as an eighth grader.

For a variety of reasons in 1963 it was voted to close the high school and turn it into an elementary and middle school. High school students had their choice of attending New London or Franklin.

In 1965-66 plans for a Kearsage Regional School were made to include New London, Andover, Warner, Sutton, Bradford, Newbury, Springfield, and Wilmot. The school would be in New London. Andover rejected the plan. It lost by one vote. A subsequent vote was taken which was also rejected by Andover by a larger margin. At the time Chaffee's history was published, the problem was still unresolved.

Additions were made to the high school, and the elementary and middle school students took up residence. At a later date Andover entered into an agreement with Merrimack Valley to take our high school students.



Andover High School after 1946



The historic Main House at The Fells will be display its holiday finery on two special weekends in November.

Christmas Splendor At The Fells In Newbury

The historic architecture at The Fells in Newbury becomes the perfect setting for Christmas at the Fells, a biennial holiday fundraising event. The Main House will be delightfully trimmed and open for touring from 11 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5, as well as November 10 through 12.

The theme for this biennial event is Holiday Celebrations from Around the World, with talented area decorators each choosing a different room and a different country. Marvel at the festive collections from Russia, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, and the British Isles, in addition to holiday themes of Africa, Scandinavia, and Early Americana. The cost to tour is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages four to 15. Private group tours are available.

Gingerbread House Workshop

Also on November 4 there will be a Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop for youngsters. Mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, grandparents and grandchildren, join Ellie Snyder and New London Confections in a gingerbread house decorating workshop. Bring home a fully decorated gingerbread house to cherish for years to come.

New London Confections will provide the "naked" house, baked, fully

assembled, and mounted on cardboard, ready for your finishing touches. Frosting, candy, and other adornments provided – all one needs is a little imagination. Each child should be accompanied by an adult.

Hot apple cider and freshly baked goodies will be served. Reservations and advance payment of \$28 per gingerbread house required. RSVP no later than October 27. Recommended age, six years and up.

Christmas For Kids

On Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11, from 10 AM to noon, join us for Christmas at The Fells for Kids. Your children (or grandchildren) will enjoy two hours of holiday crafting while you enjoy a tour of the Fells Main House lavishly adorned to the theme of Holiday Celebrations from Around the World.

Activities for the kids include storytelling, a holiday card workshop, ornament-making, and tree decorating. Freshly baked cookies and cocoa will be served. All craft supplies are included in the \$12 (per child) fee. Recommended age, six years and up. Registration and advance payment required.

For information, contact us at 763-4789, extension 3, or Fells@tds.net, or www.thefells.org.

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