



THE GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FALL, 2011

From the President:

The Georgetown Historical Society has been bustling with activity the past few months. Our membership and fundraising drive was a big success, bringing in many new members and bringing back some members who we haven't heard from in a while. Welcome to all of our new members who are receiving this newsletter for the first time, we hope you enjoy it! If you are among the small group who have not yet paid 2011 dues, we hope you will do so very soon.

Once the weather warmed up, we did our spring clean-up at the museum and one-room schoolhouse on May 28 and June 4. A big thank you goes out to all my hard-working helpers: Terry and Barbara Hart, Sylvia West, Steve Keene, Ed DesJardins, Rick Detwiller, Beverly Knapp, Ralph Chouinard, and Sarah Comiskey.

On June 17, the third graders of Penn Brook School visited the museum to learn about local history. The kids enjoyed hearing stories of what life was like in the old days, and learned about such things as the underground railroad and the legend of the "Haunted Meal Chest." Thank you to Beverly Knapp and Starr Anderson, who were the event coordinators, as well as helpers Steve Keene, Terry Hart, Rick Detwiller, and Ed DesJardins. Looking out for the safety of the children crossing busy East Main Street were crossing guard George Comiskey, and Sergeant Donald Cudmore and Chief James Mulligan from the Georgetown Police Department.

Later in June we welcomed our newest Summer Intern, Michelle Prior. Michelle first became interested in history when she visited the Brocklebank Museum as a Penn Brook School third-grader, and later worked as a tour guide at the museum while a student at GMHS. In 2009, she was the recipient of our Homer Tapin Scholarship. Michelle is now a junior at the University of Miami in Ohio, double majoring in American Studies and Political Science. She helped design our new Civil War exhibit (along with Steve Keene and myself), and has also been working on our Digital Archives Program.

Speaking of our Homer Tapin Scholarship, congratulations to Ryan Flynn, our 2011 recipient. Ryan did an Eagle Scout project at the museum, installing an information kiosk and cutting a trail to the old barn foundation. Ryan will be attending Stonehill College in the fall.

On July 10, the museum opened for the season with our new "Georgetown in the Civil War" exhibit (see related article). We hope you will drop by for a visit this summer at the museum or one of our other special events.

We always love hearing from our members. If you have any questions or comments or would like to help in any way, please contact us at info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com.

Christine Comiskey

NEW CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT

Christine Comiskey

When was the last time you visited the Brocklebank Museum? Whether it was just last year, or not since the last millennium, you will be in for a surprise when you see how we have transformed the Tavern Room into our new “Georgetown in the Civil War” exhibit. Focusing on the men and women from Georgetown who were involved in the war, the exhibit features uniforms, weapons, photos, and even a deadly bullet that killed *two* soldiers!

We have been working for months gathering together the museum’s various Civil War items, some of which were packed away in storage. We then went looking for loan items, and came across a treasure trove at the Georgetown Library. Prior to the establishment of the Georgetown Historical Society, people often donated their items of historical interest to the library. Library Director Ruth Eifert and I went on a “treasure hunt” in the library attic one day, and came out with some great items, including the uniforms of Capt. John Barnes that she has kindly allowed us to borrow for the exhibit.



Capt. John Barnes, 50th Massachusetts Regiment



Barry Crawford, GHS Treasurer

US NAVY RESERVES MEMBER TO DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN

I'm joining one of the several Provincial Reconstruction teams scattered around Afghanistan designed to help local communities in Afghanistan maintain control of their local government, resources, and security (read as support the good guys and keep bad guys out). PRT's are made up of US State Department officials, skilled tradesmen, international members, Afghani security and US military. They are key to US's hopes of eventually withdrawing from Afghanistan without the vacuum of the criminal elements and terrorist groups regaining control.

To prepare for this mission each member goes to their respective technical school to train on their assigned role, followed by extensive combat training, mission training, and physical conditioning to be prepared for the unfamiliar high altitude and extreme weather conditions in which we'll be operating.

When I signed up as an Aviation Electrician in the Navy Reserves, I certainly didn't expect to be working with the Army in a land locked country. However, for what is likely my final military tour,

this has the makings of being quite the adventure. Despite the unfamiliar territory in which I find myself after 24yrs in the Navy, I am looking forward to making a positive impact on my team and our mission.

(We all wish Barry and his team the best of luck as they prepare for deployment to Afghanistan later this year and for his years of labor on our behalf. *GHS Newsletter Ed.*)

CURATOR'S CORNER

Steve Keene:

RECLAMATION OF THE CURATOR'S ROOM

Michelle Prior, 2009 GHS graduate and awardee of Homer Tapin and Baker Adams scholarships, is now returning for junior year at Miami University (OH) '13. An American Studies & Political Science major, she has a keen (pun intended) interest in historical collections and their management and preservation.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SUMMER INTERN, MICHELLE PRIOR.



Did I mention that Michelle also attacked and rearranged the Library? Thanks in good part to Michelle, a reclamation project is well under way.

Part way through the summer Michelle volunteered as an intern and contributed substantially to organization and display of the “Georgetown in the Civil War” exhibit. Along the way Michelle said “I’d like to encourage and participate in a project to ‘reclaim’ the Curator’s Room.” She may not have used the word “reclaim,” but that’s how your Curator interpreted the challenge.

For decades trunks and cardboard boxes full of artifacts, documents, photos, textiles, etc. were stored in that room creating largely a state of disarray.

Michelle’s urging and determination has resulted in a substantially improved situation.

1,717 computer entries suggested we’d find at least that many objects, etc. In rediscovering them six large bags of “chopped” cardboard were discarded. Nearly 25% of those 1,717 objects were identified, bagged and transferred to modern containers. Also, two “big box” stores are considering “in kind” donations of steel shelving and storage containers.

“Before” photos attest to supreme clutter.

“Current“ photos show our headway.

NORTH WALL



BEFORE

CURRENT

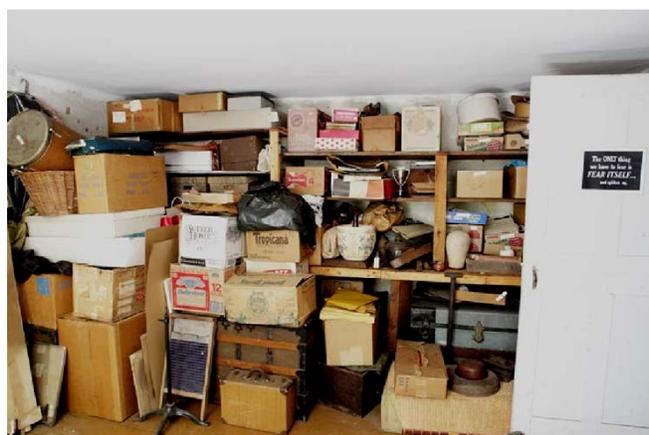
EAST WALL



BEFORE

CURRENT

WEST WALL



BEFORE

CURRENT

“TRAILS AND SAILS” WEEKENDS

The Brocklebank Museum will be participating again this year in the “Trails and Sails” weekends. We will be having an “Open House” on September 17 and 18 and September 24 and 25 (which is also *Georgetown Days* weekend) from 12-5. We will not be offering guided tours during those days, but we need some extra volunteers to keep an eye on things in each room. If you can spare a few hours and are willing to assist, please contact us at info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com.

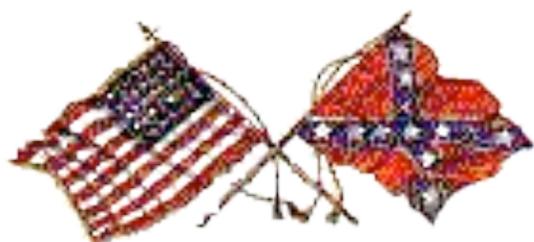
Georgetown Historical Society Calendar

September 16 – 18 *Trails and Sails* weekend
 September 23 – 25 *Georgetown Days* and *Trails and Sails* Weekend Museum Open House
 Ice Cream Sale
 Cemetery Tours
 October 22 & 23 and 29 & 30 *Tragedies and Tombstones* Cemetery Tours
 November Attic Treasures Discovery Night
 December Annual Meeting

MUSEUM OPEN FOR VISITS

We hope you'll visit the museum this summer. Members get in free just by showing their 2011 or Life membership card (contact us if you need a replacement).

Christine Comiskey



CEMETERY TOURS

Are you interested in learning more about the entrepreneurs, philanthropists, abolitionists, sinners and tragic events that helped shape Georgetown in the 1800s? Local historian Chris Comiskey will once again be conducting tours of **Georgetown's Historic Harmony Cemetery**, located on Central Street, on Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25 as part of *Georgetown Days*.

On October 29 and 30, Chris returns with her “Tragedies and Tombstones” tour of **Union Cemetery** on East Main Street. Just in time for Halloween, this tour delves into the many tragic and gruesome deaths of Georgetowners of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Both tours proved to be very popular last year, so don't miss out! Times have not yet been determined, so check the local papers or our website <<http://www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com>> for updates.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

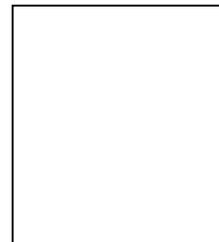
We are currently running a membership drive, with the goal of substantially increasing our membership. You can help by inviting your family and friends to join GHS. Membership Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com.

We love hearing from you! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, or would like to volunteer to help in any way, please e-mail us at: <info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com>

If you have not yet paid your GHS dues for 2011, please do so soon.



The Georgetown Historical Society
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Georgetown Historical Society



Officers

<i>President :</i>	<i>Chris Comiskey</i>
<i>1st Vice President:</i>	<i>Terrance Hart</i>
<i>2nd Vice President:</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Curator:</i>	<i>Steve Keene</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Sylvia West</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Barry Crawford</i>

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<i>Ed Des Jardins</i>
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- VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com to see more information about GHS and upcoming events.
- EMAIL US AT: <info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com>>