

⁴ UPCOMING EVENTS

ANTIQUÉ AUTO SHOW

Sunday, September 7 11 AM to 4 PM
King House Yard
Details inside. No raindate.

THE PRESIDENT DID WHAT!

Wednesday, September 17 7:30 PM
Kent Memorial Library
An illustrated account of anecdotes, apocryphal tales, scandals, foibles, quirks, shortcomings, idiosyncrasies and eccentricities of American Presidents and their First Ladies.

ART SHOW & SALE

Saturday, September 20 9:30 AM to 4 PM
King House Lawn
Raindate: Saturday, October 4

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE - LUCY STONE

Wednesday, September 22 7:30 PM
Kent Memorial Library
In an era where few women violated the social ban against their speaking in public, this charismatic speaker drew crowds.

Suffield Historical Society
P.O. Box 893
Suffield, Connecticut 06078
(860) 668-5256

www.SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org

King House Museum
232 South Main Street

Open to the Public
Wednesdays and Saturdays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
May through September

Newsletter Editor
Maggie Philippon

WORK & CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, September 27 9 AM to Noon
King House and Yard
Raindate set: Sunday, September 28, 1-4 PM

GREAT CANDY HANDOUT

Friday, October 31 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Halloween on King House Porch

FATAL FORECAST

Wednesday, November 19 7:30 PM
Kent Memorial Library
The dramatic story of two small fishing boats in the path of a devastating storm off Cape Cod. In November 1980, a malfunctioning weather buoy prevented the National Weather Service from estimating the magnitude of the storm. The Fair Wind and the Sea Fever were trapped in an onslaught of unpredicted 70-foot waves.

HOLIDAYFEST

O Christmas Tree:
Remarkable, Traditional, and Creative
Saturday and Sunday, December 6 & 7
11 AM to 3 PM King House Museum
Details inside.



The King House Museum

Vol. III, No. 4

A Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society

September 2008

The mission of the Suffield Historical Society is to collect, preserve and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.

Suffield Historical Society

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Vice President
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Lester Smith

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Stony Brook CURRENTS

Proprietor: Joseph Pomeroy by Ed Chase

As the 17th century closed, Suffield needed its own blacksmith. Joseph Pomeroy was a gunsmith, blacksmith and general iron worker following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. His forbears were respected for their iron skills and as members of their communities. Thus Joseph seemed an ideal recruit.

The March 7, 1699 Town Meeting records the enticement of a proprietorship¹: "...to give Joseph Pomeroy for inheritance; forty acres of land; but with this provisall, or on these conditions, that, he the said Pomeroy settle, abide and remain in the town for the space or full term of seven years. and during said term to follow his trade, for the benefit of the town." "May it please the Lord to bless him with life, health and strength to doe soe."

The house lot that the selectmen offered was five acres that had originally had been part of Abram Dibble's 1674 allotment. Today we know the area as the land where the Veterans' Memorial and the First National Bank of Suffield stand. This central spot was undoubtedly land for both his residence and his shop. The remainder of his acreage was located on "Chestnut Hill," a knoll along the north side of Mountain Road just west of Spaulding School. (The deteriorating remains of a home his son Medad built in 1723 can still be seen across the street from the current Thomas Bellmore property.)

Joseph accepted the proprietorship and plied his trade in Suffield until his death in 1712. During the intervening years, he served Suffield as Selectman, Assessor and often Moderator. He fought in the early French and Indian Wars and was part of the Suffield Militia with the rank of Captain.

Joseph's father, Medad, was a soldier under Captain William Turner during King Philip's War and a blacksmith in Northhampton, Massachusetts. His grandfather, Eltweed, was the ancestor who immigrated to the New World bringing his iron skills first to Dorchester and later Windsor. Eltweed with his three wives and 12 children is said to be the progenitor of all who bear the Pomeroy name in America! Many of his descendants including female lines still reside in Suffield.

¹ Pomeroy was not an "Original Proprietor" as this distinction was for proprietors prior to 1682.

References: H.S.Sheldon's *Documentary History of Suffield, 1670 to 1749*, 1879; *The Pomeroy Genealogy*, 1912; and publications from the Windsor Historical Society concerning settlers from the ship "Mary and John."

JULY'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The mid-summer Ice Cream Social on the King House Museum lawn continues to be a growing success. Over 100 people attended this year, up about 20-25 from last year.

Amazingly, it did not rain! In fact, we enjoyed a lovely evening, perfect for al fresco dining and sundaes topped with Noble strawberries and Borg blueberries. The photo taken by Lester Smith shows a portion of the group enjoying their self-designed ice cream treats.

The Society expresses a big thank you to *Scoop du Jour* for helping us provide ice cream and sweet toppings for the crowd. Thank you also to those members who helped set up and serve.



Enjoying a summer evening and ice cream at the King House at the Society's Ice Cream Social.

SUFFIELD ON THE GREEN

Suffield on the Green is fast approaching. Look for the Society's booth on the green, and see if you can identify those *What's Its*.

If you have a *What's It* you would like to lend for the weekend, call Ed Chase at 668-2962.

The Society will also be hosting the Antique Auto Show at the King House on Sunday 11:00 to 4:00. Bring a car to show (contact Bill Gozzo at 668-6350) or bring a friend and tour the museum as well.

Admission is free to the car show.

WORK DAY SCHEDULED

Mark Setember 27 on your calendar and join us in the annual Fall Work Day cleanup. Many jobs - inside and out - are on our checklist to accomplish before closing the house for the season.

Volunteers will be working from 9 AM until noon. Come for the entire morning or just an hour or two. Each pair of hands helps and the Society appreciates each one's efforts. Bringing your own yard tools for outside projects is also always appreciated.

An alternate date in case of Saturday rain has been scheduled for the following day: Sunday afternoon, September 28 from 1 PM to 4 PM.

PUBLICITY CHAIR NEEDED

We are in serious need of someone willing to do publicity for the Society.

For the most part, the job entails writing and sending press releases to the five local papers to publicize our monthly programs and our special events. The details of each of these will be available from the Program/Events Chair.

Please call Anne Borg at 668-7841 if you would be willing to take this job on. You could even find a friend and do it together.

ART SHOW

The Tobacco Valley Art Association is will once again be hosting an art show on the lawn of the King House.

The show and sale begin at 9:30 AM on Saturday, September 20 and display the works of accomplished local artists. Various media, diverse styles and a wide variety of subject matter offer something to please every visitor ... items to enjoy viewing and some too lovely not to bring home to enjoy forever.

The show will be open until 4 PM for your enjoyment.

A raindate of Saturday, October 4 has been scheduled.

HOLIDAYFEST IS COMING

Our traditional Holidayfest weekend on December 6 and 7 is approaching, so I'm putting out an appeal for help with the loan exhibit we hope to assemble.

The topic will be O Christmas Tree: Remarkable, Traditional, and Creative. What I envision is an assortment of trees of many sizes and styles, some old, some new, with perhaps emphasis on "creative." This is a topic where we are depending on members and other friends, so please try to participate. Dig in your attic, let your creative juices flow, or give me a hint of someone you know who might be persuaded to take part. This could be fun, or it could be a disaster. Let's make it the former.

Lester Smith, Curator



Anne Cronan and Chris Hodges dressed in period attire added to the festivities at the July Ice Cream Social.

DUES

If there is a dues renewal in this issue of the newsletter, then your membership needs to be renewed. If not, then you are paid up. You can always tell where you stand by looking for your renewal date on the address label. *Rest assured that we will remind you!*

If you are not yet a member and would like to enjoy the benefits of membership, call our Membership Chair Art Sikes at 668-0414 and he will forward a membership application to you.

FROM DR. KING'S JOURNAL

on Wensday the 15th of June 1774 between Four and Five o'clock afternoon a Violent Hurricane or Whirlwind passed thro part of Suffield beginning near the Southwesterly part of the Town and passed the River Near the NorthEasterly part thereof where it disappeared

when I first perceived it . . . twas then passing a Grove of large Oakes which bent and Wreathed under it like Wands. The Air over them appeared much like a Pillar of Smoke obscured with Leaves Dirt Fragments of Trees, and even Birds that were lodged in the Wood ascending in a Spiral Manor like a Common Whirlwind attended with a prodigious Torrent of Rain as tho all the Water in the Clouds fell at once, with a Great and uncommon Noise . . .

The Weadth of the Glade Since appears to be about 20 rods Wide [330 feet] at a Medium its course being very visible from the devastations it made destroying everything almost where it passed Several Buildings were unroofed Especially one Dwelling House. The roof was taken off and the furniture of the chambers Carried away at some Distance and some of the owners papers found in Enfield

Large Trees Broke off and others Tore up by the Roots and Carried several rods from where they grew - - -

Dr. Alexander King, 1774

RETURN THOSE SURVEYS!

If you have not returned the membership survey enclosed in your last issue, please fill it out and mail to Art Sikes at 1175 River Boulevard, Suffield.

Completed surveys may also be placed in the box behind the library's check-out desk. *We value your input.*