



BITS & PIECES

News from the
Whately Historical Society

in Town Hall
194 Chestnut Plain Road
Whately, MA 01093
info@whatelyhistorical.org
www.whatelyhistorical.org

Celebrate at the Whately Fall Festival!

Sunday, October 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Town Hall



★ **Pottery-making demonstration**
noon-1 p.m. by master potter Rick Hamelin. Learn how redware and stoneware pottery was made in Whately in the 1800s. Family friendly!

★ **Visit the Museum**
with its outstanding collection of 19th-

century pottery made here in Whately. The fall exhibit showcases pieces from its collection as well as rarely shown items on loan from private collectors.



★ **Share a Shard!** Have you found broken pottery in your yard or garden? How old is it? Where did it come from? Bring a piece to share and discuss with museum curator Dan Sousa from Historic Deerfield.

★ **Festival Food** by Tom's Famous Hot Dog & Grill

★ **Free ice cream** donated by Snow's Ice Cream Company

★ **Live music** by local bands—*The Pandemic String Band* and *The Packing Shed*

This will be our first public event since Spring 2020. We will follow whatever COVID precaution guidelines are in effect.

West Whately school and chapel shortly after their move in 1903



[Way] Back to School

For most of the 19th century, Whately had six district schools: two in East Whately, two in town center, and two in West Whately. Of these, the most intact survivor is the Northwest School in West Whately, now at 151 Conway Road just south of the West Whately Chapel.

The school was built c.1813 and additional rooms were added in 1838 or 1840. At the turn of the century it had 19 pupils, and it was discontinued as a school in 1929. The building was originally located on the north side of Williamsburg Road near the West Whately Chapel, close to the intersection with Conway Road. The land for both buildings was taken for the Northampton Reservoir c. 1903 and both buildings were moved up to Conway Road. —*Judy Markland*

PUZZLE PIECES! Can you ID the 5 ceramic shards at the top of this page? All were found in the ground in Whately and provide intriguing clues to the past. Which is the oldest? Which came from farthest away? What kind of objects did they come from? Bring your answers (and questions), and your own mystery shard to the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 3.

Becoming Whately, a History in Objects

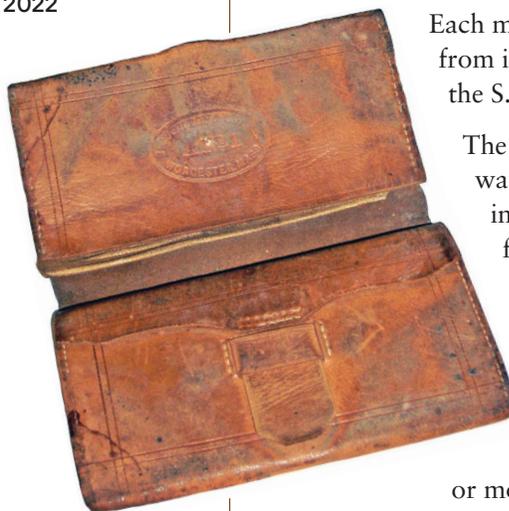
250th Anniversary Exhibit, Spring–Winter 2022
Whately Historical Society Museum
Curated by Judy Markland

Forty objects spanning 500 years of Whately History will be on display with explanations of their roles.

Contributions wanted for *Becoming Whately* exhibit (loans or donations):

- Objects illustrating lives and cultures of transient farm workers
- Wall telephone with a hand crank
- Broadleaf tobacco tying equipment
- Photo of the Whately library when it was at Town Hall
- Objects illustrating lives of 19th- and 20th-century immigrants to Whately from Poland, Ireland, and Quebec, or other places of origin
- Photos, objects, or memories of the Whately well pollution crisis

If you can help, email info@whatelyhistorical.org or call Judy at 413-665-4638.



On Display at the Library

Each month the Society features an object from its collection in the display space in the S. White Dickinson Library.

The production of pocketbooks or wallets was a significant Whately industry in the 19th century, with factories doing the cutting, pasting, and pricking the holes for the stitches. Women and children sewed the wallet pieces together. Colonel Harwood had the largest factory, which employed 5–7 men and a dozen or more young women, with a much

larger force of stitchers scattered around town. Stephen Belden and Lemuel Graves had smaller factories. Between them they likely employed as many as 60 families in stitching, paying thousands of dollars for the work. (Crafts, *History of Whately*, p. 262)

The leather hand-sewn man's wallet shown above was used to hold currency, important papers, and personal items. It was made in the Connecticut River Valley in the 19th century. The Whately Historical Society purchased it in 2020.

Support the Historical Society

Offer Materials · Don't throw away those old farming implements and tools, photographs, diaries, letters, wedding invitations, or outfits. The Historical Society is always looking for items that illustrate the past and complement our current holdings. Call for an appointment to bring materials to Town Hall. Our archivist and curator will review all offers to decide which to add to the collection.

Volunteer · We always need help with maintaining and documenting the collection, social media, and planning and supporting events. Call Adelia at 665-3837 or email info@whatelyhistorical.org.

Become a Member · Join others who care about the history of our town! Receive notices about all programs, invitations to special activities, and monthly "Perspective on the Past" emails. Membership categories: Individual \$10, Family \$15, Supporter \$40, Patron \$75. Dues support the preservation and expansion of the museum collection and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Make check out to the *Whately Historical Society*. Send it with your name, address, phone number and email address to Whately Historical Society, P. O. Box 7, Whately, MA 01093. You may also pay by credit card or via PayPal at www.whatelyhistorical.org

The Whately Historical Society was founded in 1966 to preserve the town's history and to educate townspeople and others about Whately's past. The Society sponsors programs, research and activities about the history and culture of Whately and the region; maintains a museum of Whately documents, images and objects; and responds to inquiries about Whately history and genealogy.

The Whately Historical Society is incorporated as a charitable organization in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and has been designated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the IRS.

Explore www.whatelyhistorical.org to learn more about our collections, access resources about Whately history, learn about future events, and purchase Town histories, historic postcards and note cards, T-shirts, or sweatshirts.

Officers

Neal Abraham, President
Adelia Bardwell, Immediate Past President
Betty Orloski, Vice President
Bill Saunders, Treasurer
Gretchen Bechta, Secretary
Dereka Smith, Archivist
Jane Grybko, Curator
Judy Markland, Webmaster

