



**NEWS** from

the **WHATELY**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**September 2022**

in Town Hall

194 Chestnut Plain Road, Whately, MA 01093

info@whatelyhistorical.org · www.whatelyhistorical.org

**NEW ACQUISITIONS:**

**The LaSalle family** made a gift in honor and memory of Ann Kennedy LaSalle (1931–2017) and James (Jim) Henry LaSalle, Jr. (1928–2022). The stoneware crock was made by Thomas Crafts & Co., which operated on Claverack Road in Whately, 1833–1848. Its unusual shape and finish complement the works already in the Historical Society collection. Jim and Ann volunteered countless hours on behalf of the Town, the Grange, and the Congregational Church while operating LaSalle Florists and raising a family. They began to collect Whately pots while Ann was co-chair of the Pottery Committee for Whately’s bicentennial in 1971.



*stoneware crock*



*1890s butter mold*

**Larry Ashman**

contributed an 1890s butter mold, with spatula and press, made by Porter Blanchard’s Sons Co. of Nashua, NH. The white birch device has brass hooks and pins designed to release the patterned butter in a single motion. Larry’s grandfather Anthony Ashman (1879–1946) emigrated from Lithuania to Whately with his brother Stanley (1881–1969) in 1905. Anthony and Caroline Ashman bought the house at 160 Long Plain Road in 1921. We don’t know who bought the Blanchard butter mold, but we’re glad that this example of ingenious New England craftsmanship survived for over 120 years until it was found in the Ashmans’ attic.

In the 1940s, Jim LaSalle took dozens of photos of farmers and their crops in Whately, Hatfield and Hadley. If you can identify these men, please email [info@whatelyhistorical.org](mailto:info@whatelyhistorical.org)



**Nancy Talanian** opened her pottery studio in West Whately in 2006. She gave this jade green dish to the Historical Society.

We welcome works of art, books, and music created by Whately residents.



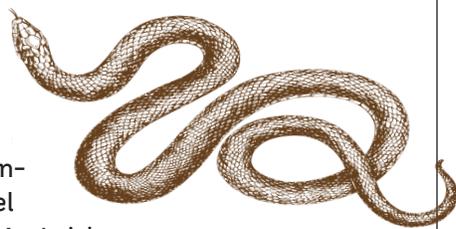
# NEXT WHS MEETING is on Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 pm at the Town Hall

## Fall Festival

at Town Hall  
Sunday, October 2, 2022  
from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- ★ Food from Tom's Hot Dogs
- ★ Free ice cream from Snow's Dairy
- ★ Music by Whately's own "Packing Shed Band"\*
- ★ Chair caning — Darcy Tozier of Hayloft Studio in Whately will demonstrate the techniques of gathering and softening reeds, and weaving new seats and chair backs.\*
- ★ Snakes of Western Massachusetts by Thomas Tynning\*
- ★ Cider making demonstration by Paul Wetzel from Smith College's MacLeish Field Station, with apples donated by Quonquot Farm
- ★ "Becoming Whately: A History in Objects"

\*Sponsored by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the Whately Cultural Council.



**Becoming Whately: A History in Objects** exhibit curated by Judy Markland includes objects, documents, timelines and photographs, as well as rotating picture displays about Whately history. Supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the Whately Cultural Council. More than 200 visitors since June 2022—don't miss it!

Open through Saturday, December 17; Tuesdays 9–noon, Saturdays 10–noon on 10/1, 11/5, 12/3 and 12/17.



*hatchets for cutting tobacco stalks*

**Whately: A Short History** by Dereka Smith, published by WHS in 2022 for the town's 250th anniversary. Signed copies are available for \$10 (visit the Museum or order online). We have already sold half of the first printing. Get yours while they last!

### Add your Whately Family Genealogy

Deadline November 1—Last call for Whately family genealogies (or updates to the listings in Ena Cane's 1971 book). Dereka Smith has compiled over 800 pages of improved content using original sources! Updates will be posted on the WHS's website. Forms are at: <https://whatelyhistorical.org/whately-history-resources/genealogies/> and will be available at the Fall Festival.

## Support the Historical Society

**Offer Materials** • We 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 maintaining and documenting the collection, social media, and planning and supporting events. Call Adelia at 665-3837 or email [info@whatelyhistorical.org](mailto:info@whatelyhistorical.org).

**Contribute & Become a Member** • Join others who care about the history of our town! Receive notices about all programs, invitations to special activities, and "Perspective on the Past" emails. Donations to support our work of preservation, documentation and expansion of our museum collection are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Individual donors of at least \$10 become one-year members; higher annual contributions are encouraged: Supporter \$40, Sponsor \$75, Patron \$150. Donors of \$500 or more become five-year members. Make check out to: *Whately Historical Society*. Send it with name, address, phone number and email address to Whately Historical Society, P. O. Box 7, Whately, MA 01093. You may also pay with a credit card or via PayPal at [www.whatelyhistorical.org](http://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 Mass. and has been designated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the IRS.

Explore [www.whatelyhistorical.org](http://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  
Larry Ashman, Vice President  
Bill Saunders, Treasurer  
Gretchen Bechta, Secretary  
Dereka Smith, Archivist  
Jane Grybko, Curator  
Maida Goodwin, Webmaster