

News from the

WHATELY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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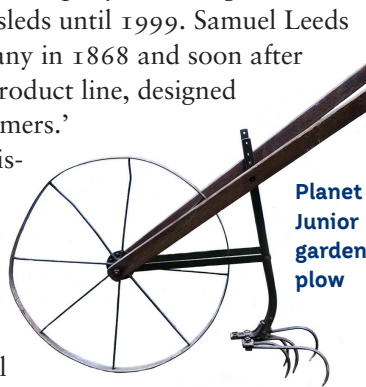
www.whatelyhistorical.org

In Town Hall, 194 Chestnut Plain Road,
Whately, MA 01093 • September 2023

NEW ACQUISITIONS • Steve Calderone, long-time Whately resident now living in Goshen, donated an early 20th-century wood and steel **garden plow** (WHS 2023.119.001). It was made by the S. L. Allen Company in Philadelphia, the same company that designed and marketed Flexible Flyer sleds until 1999. Samuel Leeds Allen founded his company in 1868 and soon after launched the Planet Jr. product line, designed for use by 'one-horse farmers.'

The Planet Jr. line was displayed at the Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 and the 1889 International Exposition in Paris. Our 'high-wheel garden plow and cultivator', which retailed for \$5.50 in 1922, was advertised as an 'easy running tool' for home gardeners—particularly useful for plowing up scratching yards near chicken coops.

The plow was found in a c. 1920 barn, formerly owned by George Holich (1924–2009), on Chestnut Plain Road.

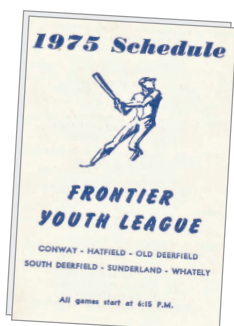


from the fire station and then-ballfield. Doug, who now directs the Yager Museum at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, attributes his interest in history to his work as an undergraduate cataloguing some of the Historical Society's holdings with Ena Cane (1909–83), longtime Whately Librarian.

BARN TOUR • Twenty-plus supporters of WHS gathered on a Saturday morning in August to learn from Tim Nourse about the recently restored 1870 barn across from Nourse Farm headquarters on River Road. Nancy Heafey (c. 1800–1881), a widow with five adult children, bought the property on which the barn stands in 1860 when she emigrated from Ireland.



Although the restoration required replacing the original wood flooring with concrete to stabilize the structure and closing off the shallow lower level that had provided shelter to herds of sheep, the original posts and cross beams, as well as much of the exterior cladding and scalloped decoration, were repaired and retained. Bill Flynt, formerly of Historic Deerfield, used dendrochronology (dating of wood by scientific analysis of tree rings) to confirm the date of the massive hemlock cross beams of the original floor.



WHS 2023.123.001

Doug Kendall, who lived in Whately from the late 1960s until the early 1980s, has contributed a complete set of **records from the 1973–75 Whately Youth League baseball team**—hand-annotated scorecards, statistics, game summaries with color commentary, rule books, schedules, and other memorabilia. Doug's careful pencil notations capture the records of Whately sluggers and pitchers in the

Dwight, Farrick, Fydenkevez, Grybko, Kendall, Samson, Sanders, and Sanderson families—to name but a few!

The Kendall family lived at 68 Christian Lane, across

Check out Whately Historical Society on Facebook!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Festival • Sunday, Oct. 1, 11 am–2 pm, Town Hall lawn • **Food** by Tom's Long Hot Dogs of Whately • **Music** by Old Country Road Band, funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the Whately Cultural Council • **Free ice cream** from Maple Farm Creamery, Hadley • **Mums** from Mill River Farm • **Dazzle Day Face Painters** • **Rug braiding** by Ruth Leahey • **Blacksmithing demo** by Rick Martin—traditional iron working on his portable forge.

Trolleys in the Valley! Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:30 am–noon • Self-guided tour of the trolley route from Hatfield to Greenfield and exhibitions of memorabilia at four cooperating museums: Whately, Hatfield and Greenfield Historical Societies, and Historic Deerfield. Learn about the furious dispute between Whately and

the railway company as the route was determined!

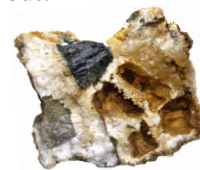
Get a tour map at any of the cooperating museums. Funded in part by the Pioneer Valley History Network (PVHN) as part



of their *History on the Go* program.

A Whately Sampler • Sunday, Nov. 12, 2 pm, Town Hall auditorium, 194 Chestnut Plain Road. Join us for three short presentations about:

- **Miners from Cornwall, England**, in West Whately in the early 1860s extracting lead from the mine on Edwin Bardwell's (1819–84) property.



Galena ore
WHS 1981.038

- **WWII V-Mail** sent by soldiers overseas—reduced to 1/4 size to minimize weight. WHS has a collection of WWII

V-Mail and other letters from Whately resident Marshall Pease, Jr. (1920–2006).



- **Laura A. Sanderson** (1851–1949), poet and teacher, who lived in her family's house in Whately Glen until the late 1890s, when she moved to Indianapolis and founded a highly successful business school.

WHS 1999.002.001

Roaring Brook exhibit • Just a few more months to join the 200+ Whately residents and friends who have visited our exhibit! The Whately Glen story is told through videos, historic and contemporary photographs, artifacts, and newspaper clippings spanning over a century. **Open Tuesdays 9 am–noon, first and third Saturdays each month 10 am–noon, and during the WHS programs listed in this newsletter.**

Support the Historical Society

Offer Materials • We're always looking for items that illustrate the past and complement our 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.

Contribute & Become a Member • Join others who care about the history of our town! Receive notices about all public programs and invitations to special activities. 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 your 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.

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 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
Sara Cooper, Treasurer
Gretchen Bechta, Secretary
Dereka Smith, Archivist
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Maida Goodwin, Webmaster