

News from the

WHATELY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.whatelyhistorical.org

info@whatelyhistorical.org

In Town Hall

194 Chestnut Plain Road

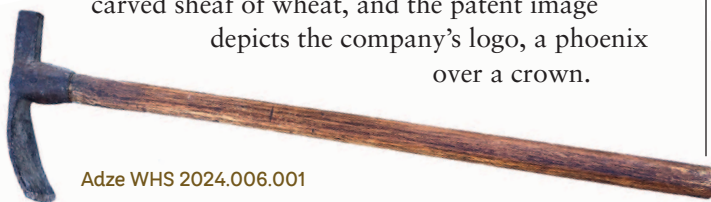
Whately, MA 01093

March 2024

Photo: Frank and Tony
Zoly in onion field, 1922.
(WHS 2003.002.002)



RECENT ACQUISITIONS • Kit Fleuriel donated vintage **carpentry tools** used by Paul Fleuriel (1935–2022), including a dozen augurs; a large adze with cutting edge perpendicular to the handle, used to cut or shape large pieces of wood; and a ‘warranted’ Phenix saw, guaranteed to be of lasting good quality. The saw handle is characteristically decorated with a carved sheaf of wheat, and the patent image depicts the company’s logo, a phoenix over a crown.



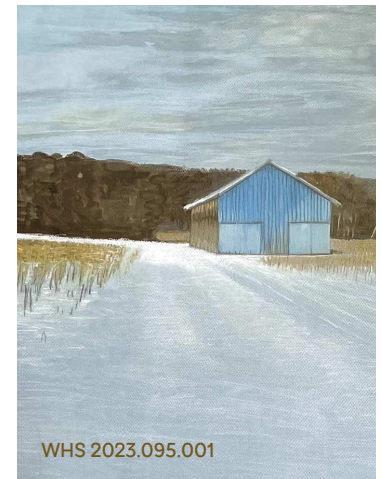
Adze WHS 2024.006.001

A gift from Martha Swift includes several **items used in the production of shade tobacco**, first introduced in Whately around 1900 when farmers began to produce crops that rivaled the finest Sumatran tobacco, used primarily for cigar wrappers. The largest tobacco company in the region, Consolidated Cigar Co., which bought the Swift tobacco interests in 1944, continued planting shade tobacco throughout the 20th century. The Swift gift includes a large sewing needle, used to attach shade cloth to metal frames; a four-foot lath with hooks for hanging cut tobacco plants to dry; and a large canvas-lined basket for gathering cut tobacco leaves.



Basket WHS 2023.145.001

Ann Reiss donated her lovely large blue **painting** of a barn on Long Plain Road that was destroyed in a microburst in 2020. Reiss’ palette includes a rich brown tint that she made by hand from black walnuts grown near the property. The painting complements WHS’s growing collection of paintings, photographs and drawings of Whately barns.



WHS 2023.095.001

WHATELY YOUTH CENTER • WHS is seeking material about the Whately Youth Center, conceived and built with the generous support of Jim (1928–2022) and Ann LaSalle (1931–2017) in memory of their son Richard (Pickles) LaSalle (1955–72). Many Town residents donated funds, materials, and labor to make the building possible. The Center served the Town well until around 2000, when the addition of the then-new Elementary School made possible its refurbishment to serve the Police Department.

If you have photos or memorabilia from athletic events, holiday parties, Scout meetings and other activities at the Youth Center, or of the building construction, please contact us at info@historicalsociety.org or drop by on Tuesday morning. We are happy to scan photos and return the originals to you. Help us capture the record of this important piece of recent Town history!

Check out Whately Historical Society on Facebook!

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Those We Can Trace: Indentured Servant Children in Hatfield,” a talk by Sue Maciorowski about the history of children ‘hired out’ as workers in exchange for room and board · Thursday, March 21, 6 p.m., Hatfield Congregational Church, 41 Main Street, Hatfield · Co-sponsored by the Whately Historical Society and the Hatfield Historical Society

Indenture

Spring Festival, Sunday May 26, Town Hall, following the Memorial Day parade and festivities (c. 11 a.m.–2 p.m.) · Music by *Seven Mile Line* · Fun activities about insects led by Micky McKinley of the Hitchcock Center for the Environment · Basket-weaving demo by Laurie Smith · Food by Tom’s Long Hot Dogs · Free ice cream from Snow’s Ice Cream, Greenfield

tiger swallowtail butterfly



Seven Mile Line band



“An Illustrator’s Journey: From Whately to the World of Children’s Books and Back Again,”

a talk by Monica Vachula, noted local illustrator · Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m. Whately Town Hall Auditorium, 194 Chestnut Plain Road



2024 EXHIBITIONS

Open to the public May 26 through mid-December.

Childhood · How did Whately children work, play and learn in times past? Our 2024 exhibit will focus on childhood in Whately from the late 18th to mid-20th century. Enjoy our array of photographs, games, toys, illustrated books, and costumes.



His father’s glove, loaned by John LaSalle

Family Exhibits · with photos and memorabilia of the Fred Farrick family of East Whately and the Waite family of Town Center.

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 for review by our archivist and curator. · **Volunteer**—We always need help maintaining and documenting the collection, social media, and planning and supporting events. If you’d like to help, call Adelia at 413-665-3837, email info@whatelyhistorical.org, or drop by Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–noon. · **Contribute & Become a Member**—Join others who care about the history of our town! Donations to support 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. Send your check, made out to: *Whately Historical Society*, 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
Jane Grybko, Curator
Maida Goodwin, Webmaster