

News from the WHATELY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Shad in the CT River

September 2026

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CURATOR!

Anita Buchiane, who was elected Curator and Director at WHS' 2026 annual meeting, has been an active volunteer, helping to organize last year's Appraisal Event, co-curating the 2026 Bardwell family exhibit and working to complete and improve our computerized catalogue. We're delighted that Jane Grybko will continue to serve as a Curator of our collections, lending her wisdom and wealth of Whately knowledge to everything we do as she has for over 30 years.



Jane Hutkoski (Grybko)
1954 WHS.2015.015.001

NEW ACQUISITION

Five account books from the Scott Farm, which span the farm's operations from 1901 to 1974, tell the story of one farm's shifts in business focus and products over three generations. Careful pencil notations itemize expenses and income in the hands of Frank Orrin Scott (1862–1936), Frank Lyndon Scott (1899–1970) and Lyndon Lewis (Sonny) Scott (1932–2020).

The common thread across 80 years of operation is the dairy and cattle business, with sales of milk, cream, calves, and cows dominating the records, together with veterinary bills and grain purchases. Lists of calves born at the farm, noting their dams and sires, recur throughout the books. In the 1930s the Scotts began to sell milk and cream wholesale to Whately's own Hillside Dairy, rather than direct to their neighbors; they later sold to Snow's, All Star, and Yankee Milk, keeping up with shifts



WHS 2026.102.001-005

in the marketplace. Large orders of cut lumber were recorded in the first half of the 20th century. Sales of animal pelts to two major fur vendors in Boston appear repeatedly; an itemized receipt to F. O. Scott, dated 1902, lists 54 animal pelts—raccoon, skunk, fox and mink. Sales expanded during the Depression to include eggs, chickens, sawdust, potatoes, honey, walnuts, butternuts, vinegar, and apples.

By the 1960s and '70s a new line of business, tobacco, appears. Summer day laborers, identified only by their first names, include members of the nearby Sanderson and Wroblewski families, as well as Scott teenagers. Boys and girls received the same rate of pay. The Scott family sold their last cows in 2009, but the farm continues to raise horses and vegetables and steward the land that has been in their family for some 250 years. We are grateful to Liz Scott for preserving and donating the business records of the Scott farm.



Mystery Machine • Help us identify this piece of farming equipment! Heavily rusted and without any sign of its manufacturer, about 20.5"x 7", it was found by Flora Chamlin in the foundation of a dairy barn on Haydenville Road. If you recognize it, email info@whatelyhistorical.org or stop by the Museum in Whately Town Hall any Tuesday morning, 9-12. First person to solve this mystery will win a signed copy of Dereka Smith's 2022 *Whately: A Short History*.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WHS Fall Festival

**Sunday, September 27, 11-2 at Whately Town Hall,
194 Chestnut Plain Road**

★ Learn about owls and other birds of prey from Tom Ricardi, Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center, and his birds (11:30-1:30)

★ Learn how to create fall and winter dried and silk flowers and wreaths with Jane Banash, The Flower Lady

★ Enjoy the music of New Leaf, an Irish band with a contemporary Appalachian twist



★ Buy maple products from John's Maple and chrysanthemums donated by Mill River Farm

★ Have lunch from Cliff's Smokin' Backyard Barbeque, back by popular demand!

★ Taste free ice cream from Maple Valley Creamery and apple cider,

made by Paul Wetzel of Smith College with apples donated by Quonquot Farm

★ Visit *Whately's Great River*, WHS' special exhibit

Whately Sampler!

Tuesday, November 19, 7 pm at Whately Town Hall Auditorium, 194 Chestnut Plain Road

Join us to hear three brief presentations about:

★ the highest source of the Connecticut River on Mount Washington's at Lake of the Clouds

★ anxieties over milk: After the Great Flood of 1936 delivery of milk from west of the Connecticut River to eastern markets was next to impossible. How did Whately dairies fare?

★ Whately's potteries produced thousands of pieces during their heyday. Where did the clay come from? And how did the finished pieces get to market?



Stoneware urn by S.D. Kellogg, WHS 2026.142.001

WHATELY'S GREAT RIVER EXHIBIT

Visit the WHS Museum to learn about the Connecticut River's impact on imports, exports, transport and every aspect of daily life in the Town. See three new wildlife videos from local river habitat, John Earl's meticulously detailed 1:24 scale model of an 18th-century ferry, a life-sized display of the fish that swim in the river today, and Joe Kopera's LIDAR-generated map of the topology of the river basin from Whately to Northampton.

The Bardwell and Wykowski family exhibits will also remain on display this fall.

Open Tuesdays 9-12; first and third Saturdays 10-12; and during special programs.



Model of an 18th-century ferry

Support the Historical Society

- Donate items that illustrate Whately's past and complement our current holdings. Write about your possible gift to info@whatelyhistorical.org, or stop in to the Museum on Tuesday, 9 am-12 pm.
- Volunteer to help maintain our collections and organize our programs and events. Call Adelia Bardwell at (413) 665-3837 or drop by the Museum.
- Support WHS by mailing us a check (P.O. Box 7, Whately, MA 01093) or by credit card or PayPal at www.whatelyhistorical.org. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Museum in Town Hall, 194 Chestnut Plain Road, Whately
whatelyhistorical.org · info@whatelyhistorical.org
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