



Newsletter

Vol. 19, No. 1 January 2022

(Each year the Newsletter starts a new “volume”, with a new “number” from 1 to 12. The first 17 volumes, through number 10, were created by Mal Eckert (thank you for those 17 years, Mal).

Our unique history and blend of people defines the foundation of our town.

Crossway Tower 130 High Street

P. O. Box 170 Lee, MA 01238

Website: LeeHistoricSociety.Homestead.com

Contact us: Lee.Historical@hotmail.com

The Society did not hold a meeting in December.
The next meeting will be January 13, 2022, at 6:30 via Zoom.

Contact GaryWallen@earthlink.net if you plan to attend.

Happy January (and Happy & Healthy 2022)



7th Bobble Head Day

15th Hat Day

21st Hugging Day

31st Kazoo Day

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

The Veterans Project

We continue to make progress with the project, although a little slower with all the holidays. Visit our website <https://leeveterans.homesteadcloud.com/> to see what we have.

We are gathering information, but are learning that key pieces of data are missing. If you could supply them, particularly date-of-birth, that would help the project. If you are interested in participating, please contact one of the team to volunteer (Bill, Phil, Mal, Karen, Gary, Mary, Peg – and we welcome more team members).



When this house was built, the entry was from the street and into the basement. Can you identify it from this detail view ?

Where is this house and what else is interesting about it's history?

(There are 7 pages to this Newsletter)
(The full story is on the last page)

AN ARTICLE:

Betty Dennis was Lee's Head Librarian from 1942 to 1987. Here is one of the local history articles she wrote.

From the January 3, 1973 *Penny Saver*

One of our known residents of years ago was the weather prophet, Levi Beebe, who died in 1900 at the age of 82.

Although born in Richmond, he spent most of his life in Lee. For a time he was engaged in the hatters business in New York, but returned to learn the paper-making business at Planter & Smith's Turkey mill in Tyringham.

Failing health caused him to buy a farm on Beartown Mountain. The original owner of the Beebe farm was Edward Barney who purchased the land from the State of Connecticut, which held various parts of the mountain. Mr. Beebe was a shrewd and prudent manager and added to his acreage from time to time, until he owned almost two thousand acres. At one time he conducted a saw mill on his land.

His weather prognostications brought him more than just local fame. In the late 1800's a serious ice crop was predicted by him, which resulted in his receiving numerous letters for future forecasts for ice companies.

His gruff exterior covered a kind person of excellent qualities. He was generous and understanding. He was twice married. His first wife died in 1857 and two years later he married for a second time. She died in 1890. He had one son and four daughters.

It was thought that perhaps his isolated life contributed to his natural ability of antagonizing the "establishment" and teaching of his day. His basic belief was of the simple ways of his forebears, both in education and style of living. He violently opposed the extravagances of the late 1800's! He lived near the boundary line between Gt. Barrington and Lee, and once becoming aggravated with Lee, moved over the line to one of his houses on the Gt. Barrington side. Finding at their annual meeting things just as incorrigible, he moved back to Lee.

AN(other) ARTICLE:

Here is an example of collecting history. Mal gets mail from many people with many kinds of history. The first of these is an item that can be published in Newsletter, but it can also be added into our Veteran's Project.

The second is a little different. "Kevin" wrote to Mal with information on a relative who was in the Civil War. The "war" information fits right into the Veteran's Project. The accompanying genealogy information won't fit there. You can see, though, that if you go looking back, you can find a lot of information, some directly relevant, but more just generally interesting.

Mal: Just got off the phone with a gentleman who was brought up on Canal Street and graduated Lee High School in 1949 and is sending me a letter about a couple of his pals from Lee that went off to WWII and never came back. He would like it published in our newsletter.

Mal: Here is the info on Martin Tarmey who fought in the Civil War. Let me know if you have questions. Kevin

Martin H. Tarmey 1844–1913 BIRTH 1844 • Ireland DEATH 14 APR 1913 • Lee, Massachusetts

husband of great-grandaunt Marriage: 17 JUL 1866 • Lee, Massachusetts Wife: Barbara E. Kelly (1845–1918)

Military 1862 • Hillsdale, Columbia, New York, USA

Enlisted as a private 23 Oct 1862. Enlisted Company 9th, New York 1st Sharpshooter Battalion, on 22 Jan 1863 and mustered out on 5 Aug 1863 at Albany, New York

Barbara E. Kelly 1845–1918 BIRTH 17 MAR 1845 • Ireland DEATH 18 MAY 1918 • Lee, Massachusetts
great-grandaunt

Anthony Kelly BIRTH County Mayo, Ireland DEATH BEF 1860 2nd great-grandfather

Anthony Kelly -1860 2nd great-grandfather

John E. Kelly 1828-1909 Son of Anthony Kelly

Michael Joseph Kelly 1866-1955 Son of John E. Kelly

Frank Joseph Kelly 1906-2000 Son of Michael Joseph Kelly

Kevin Patrick Kelly You are the son of Frank Joseph Kelly

Reading back over this, it occurred to me that this could become a regular part of the Newsletter as well as part of the Veterans Project. If you will send along a story of "your" veteran, we can run them here and add the information to our Veteran's website.

FROM THE EDITOR:

We encourage members to submit articles, ideas for topics to be discussed, or questions. We will fit them in as we are able. Letters to the editor are also welcome - leehistnewsletter@gmail.com

The exhibits we placed in the library are available. If you go to CTSBTV.org and select Channel 1301, you can search the schedule for "Lee Earns a Living", which is a recording of Phil Smith and the library exhibit. It is also on YouTube and you can search for it there.

CTSB and Phil Smith have just started work on a recording of a second exhibit, "Rock Stars and Paper Tigers". Check on our web site for information on the completed show.

A HISTORICAL NOTE:

I've been reading Grant's autobiography / memoirs.

Did you know: Grant was in Washington, DC after Lee surrendered. He wanted to go with his wife to visit his family who were nearby. Because of that, he turned down an invitation from President Lincoln to accompany him to the theater that night. (Yes, that night).

WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC??

Also, we ask people to think of the Lee Historical Society while cleaning out and downsizing. We are looking for old pictures, postcards and any items related to the history of Lee. We will add them to our collection, where they can be shared with people in the future who wonder what it was like in the old days. Consider: in 25 years, your car will be "antique".

Please remember, if you don't want to donate any items, you can let us scan or copy them or maybe borrow them for a display. Please share!



WE LOVE LOCAL HISTORY

HOW ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE LEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OR GIVING A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE AND HELP SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY?

Individual - \$10.00 Family - \$25.00 Business - \$35.00
Supporting Membership - \$50.00 or more Sponsor Membership - \$100.00 or more

Name: _____

Mail to:

Address: _____

Lee Historical Society
P. O. Box 170
Lee, MA 01238

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

NEW _____

RENEWAL _____

THESE BUSINESSES SUPPORT US.....PLEASE SUPPORT THEM

Bartini Roofing Company
290 Pleasant Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0570

M. J. Kelly, Inc.
3 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0204

Fraser's Service & Sales
139 West Park Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0326

Locker Room Sports Pub
232 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-2662

Frank Consolati Ins. Agency
71 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0105

Dresser Hull Company
60 Railroad Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-1400

Robert M. Kelly, Paperhanging
65 South Prospect Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-3489

Henry Holt Art
P. O. Box 699
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-9918

Lee Bank
75 Park Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0117

Hunter & Graziano P.C.
10 Park Place
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0789

Henry's Electric
252 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0690

Lee Hardware Store
221 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0786

Wilcox Plumbing & Heating
P. O. Box 561
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-2494

NBT Bank of Lee
76 Park Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-1800

RW's Incorporated
35 Run Way
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0946

Paperdilly, Inc
74 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-1928

A. F. Viale Ins. Agency
75 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0347

Cottage Care Inc.
230 Stockbridge Road
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-4257

Ta-Ga-Soke Campgrounds
7820 Higginsville Road
Blossvale, NY 13028
1-800-831-1744

Eagle Mill Redevelopment
50 West Center Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-425-4850

Greylock Credit Union
47 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-2121

Ford's Auto Service
1075 Fairview Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-1107

Hunter & Graziano & Distantis, PC
10 Park Place
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-0789

Mike's Professional Barber Shop
93 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-394-5829

Michael/Shawn Considine, Attys. At Law
42 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-4900

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that is why we call it the present."

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW

(a new sort of Q & A ANSWER)

(Yes, we did make you walk thru the gift shop before you could leave.)



The information below is taken from Lee Historical Commission records.

This is the “George Markam House” on Main Street.

It was built by G.P. Markam in 1894.

He was actively involved in the Temperance Movement and would not be pleased to know the south store was the Lee Package Store from the mid 1940’s to 1963.

The north store was built around 1940 by Steve Privitera, who owned the house at that time and operated Steve’s Barber Shop.