



# Newsletter

Vol. 19, No. 2      March 2022

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](http://LeeHistoricSociety.Homestead.com)

Contact us: [Lee.Historical@hotmail.com](mailto:Lee.Historical@hotmail.com)

The next meeting of the Society will be March 17, 2022, at 6:30 via ZOOM.

Please contact [GaryWallen@earthlink.net](mailto:GaryWallen@earthlink.net) if you plan to attend.

## Happy March



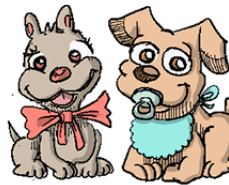
NATIONAL OREO DAY

6<sup>th</sup> Oreos



NATIONAL NAPPING DAY

14<sup>th</sup> Napping



National Puppy Day

22<sup>nd</sup> Puppies



VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

29<sup>st</sup> Vietnam Vets

### SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

#### The Veterans Project

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 – we welcome more team members). (e-mail [GaryWallen@earthlink.net](mailto:GaryWallen@earthlink.net) to be put in touch with one of them.)

Our other website <https://leehistoricsociety.homestead.com/> seems difficult to find with a Google search. It got a little easier lately, with the Chamber and the Commission (thanks, David Parker), and the Library all linking to our site. Our two sites are also linked now.

Here are some recent veteran's items. Check the "Veteran's Stories" section of the website for the full stories.



Charles T. Quigley sent an article he wrote some time ago and says "Thanks again for all your help in keeping Uncle Charles's memory alive." The picture here is his uncle, Charles T. Noonan.

Chris Wadsworth and Armand Regalbuti sent information on veterans. Two of the people mentioned, Aldo Perra and Victor Pezzotini, didn't return from the war. There is more information on the website

If you have similar information, send it to the team and it will be added it to our veterans files. We will need more details – dates of service, birth, death, where they served.

### **IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS**

(a Q & A QUESTION):



This "American Shingle" house was built in 1896.

The architects were Rathbun & Harding, Pittsfield.

Can you identify it from this detail view ?

The northwest corner is a three story tower.

(There are 5 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 her local history articles.

From the May 21, 1974 *Penny Saver*

In 1903 there was a serious coal shortage, and Lee was particularly hit hard. During January, when the temperature dipped to below zero several times, many hardship cases were created, especially among the older people and sick folks. Lee was fortunate in being able to obtain wood rather easily, so the kitchen ranges could at least keep going, and while wood was not readily available in cities, our population was small enough so that most people could be accommodated.

One coal dealer was reported to have had a limited supply, but he had orders ahead for many times his supply. Disgruntled parties caused some criticism of this man, because he would not sell out his entire stock to those few who could afford to pay more than the going price. He felt his supply should go to those who needed it most, regardless of the money.

Railroads were crippled by the shortage. In many instances when coal was supposed to be shipped to certain areas, it would be side tracked, and within hours those cars would be emptied...some of it being taken and paid for but much of it was stolen.

Because it was the general feeling that Lee had been discriminated against in the supply that was sent here, a group of four prominent men were appointed a committee to call on Mr. George Westinghouse to present Lee's case, enlisting his help. In Mr. Westinghouse's absence, Mrs. Westinghouse and her Secretary were visited and took great interest in Lee's plight. Coal for Erskine Park, the Westinghouse estate, now Foxhollow School, was supplied by contract, so they had a good supply. Mrs. Westinghouse contacted the Episcopal Rector and offered the town a gift of fifteen tons. This was gratefully accepted and arrangements made to distribute it to needy citizens.

### **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 – [garywallen47@gmail.com](mailto:garywallen47@gmail.com)

### **The Society on Television:**

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 them.

“Lee Earns a Living”, a recording of Phil Smith and the library exhibit.

“Rock Stars and Paper Tigers” has been completed and is showing on CTSB.

Both shows are on YouTube. You can search by title and find them there.

### **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 20 years, your car will be “classic”.**

**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!**

**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

**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."**



From Lee Historical Commission records:

This is the “J. H. Casey House” at 244 Main Street (between Locker Room and Henry’s Electric. “... the parlors are finished in quartered oak, the library is in cypress, and the dining room and kitchen in whitewood.”

Mr. Casey entered the Union Army at the age of 16. He was wounded and confined in a southern prison camp.

He is credited with being responsible for convincing the town to build its new high school (Central School) of Lee Marble.

**WHAT’S IN our ATTIC??**

We still have articles for sale; mugs \$5, picture packets \$6, tee shirts \$15. The picture packets are 6 scenes of Lee, suitable for framing and hanging. The mugs include a dozen buildings around Lee – ask if you have a particular one you’d like. Books include Historical Lee \$12, Cookbooks \$8, Third Strike \$5, and See All the People \$26.



**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** \_\_\_\_\_