



Newsletter

Vol. 19, No. 6 June 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

Contact us: Lee.Historical@hotmail.com

Our website: <https://leehistoricsociety.homestead.com/>

The next Society meeting will be June 9, 2022, at 6:30 == in the Society's room at Crossway.
[there is no Zoom]

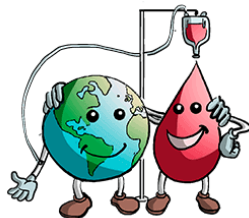
Please contact GaryWallen@earthlink.net if you plan to attend.

Happy June



NATIONAL CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM DAY

7th Chocolate



World Blood Donor Day

14th Blood Donors



NATIONAL SELFIE DAY

21st Selfie



NATIONAL HANDSHAKE DAY

30th Shake on It

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

Help – Housatonic Heritage Walks

We would like to participate in Housatonic Heritage weekends in September and October. Tracy Etheredge is leading our efforts to conduct walking tours of Lee. Please get in touch if you can help with this Society activity.

Help – Founders Weekend

The Society needs to make plans for Founders Weekend. If you have ideas or would like to volunteer for activities, please let someone on the Board know.

The Veterans Project

Please visit our website <https://leeveterans.homesteadcloud.com/>

The website has had some updating. The information there will be continually updated, so if you can supply key pieces of data that are missing, it will help the project.

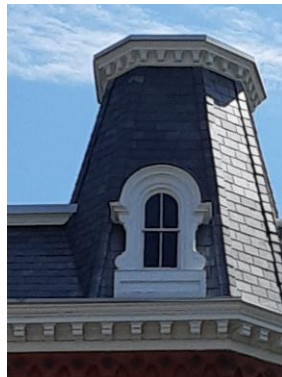
[Speaking of updates, the Society's website has also had]
[changes. Please visit the website and see what you think.]

Check the "Veteran's Stories" section of the website for stories on our veterans.

The parade on Memorial Day was recorded by CTSB. If you were a participant, or if you'd like to see the parade, visit WWW.CTSBTV.org, and search Channel 1301 for the parade.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

(a Q & A QUESTION):



Looks like 2 windows in different places,

BUT,
if you recognize them, they fit together nicely.

Can you identify it from details ?

(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 September 14, 1976 *Penny Saver*

One of the first structures in Lee stood where the Lee Library stands today. Peter Wilcox had built his one room log cabin on this site, and it was there that the first town meeting was held in 1777. That meeting adjourned for 8 minutes to meet in the Wilcox barn, probably because the house was too small to accommodate the increasing population. The second structure on this land was a low, white clapboard salt box house. The present building, the Lee Library built in Corinthian style of local marble, was constructed in 1907, for a cost of \$35,000, of which the town paid only \$18,300. Andrew Carnegie provided \$12,000 and private gifts made up the difference. The interior woodwork, so often taken for granted by townspeople, is one of its outstanding features, noticed by visitors.

Libraries have been a healthy backbone of Lee's heritage, starting with one in the old Center school, another in Porter and Chamberlain's Law Offices, one in Judge Casey's Office, and one for the Young Men's Association. The first meeting toward establishing a local public library came in April 1874. Progress on this project moved rapidly and by September 19, 1874 the doors of the Lee Library were opened to the public.

Memorial Hall was new and the town had granted one room to be used as the Library with a second provided very soon as the need presented itself.

By 1908 the move to our present building, where many renovations have taken place during the years, took place. Although renovations have taken place, we have never had an expansion which our crowded stacks prove.

Books are still number one on libraries' priorities, but phonograph records, cassettes, films, filmstrips, microfilms, copying service, etc. are all part of public library services.

[an update to Betty's article: the marble children's wing was added after 1976]



Just a nice picture

There's a double rainbow in here, if you look closely. May 2022 from Summer Street.

Something summery to share.

The Society on Television:

We didn't add anything this month, but, if you go to WWW.CTSBTV.org and search in Channel 1301, you will find three shows: "The Lee Veterans Website", "Lee Earns a Living", and "Rock Stars and Paper Tigers".

FROM THE EDITOR:

We encourage members to submit articles, ideas for topics to be discussed, questions, or favorite photos. We will fit them in as we are able. Letters to the editor are also welcome – garywallen47@gmail.com

WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC??

We ask people to think of the Lee Historical Society while cleaning out and downsizing. The Society is looking for old pictures, postcards and 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" (in America – in Canada, it takes 25 years).

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."



Hopefully, you can recognize Memorial Hall from this larger shot.

Wouldn't it be nice to know why the two top windows on this side of the building are not the same! The style on the right is used on the remaining top windows.

If you look really closely, there is a brick trim below the eaves and the center of them is blue. (And - let your imagination roam freely – do the seven second floor windows make you think of something?)

WHAT'S IN our ATTIC??

We still have articles for sale; mugs \$5, picture packets \$6, tee shirts \$15. Picture packets with 6 scenes of Lee, suitable for framing and hanging. 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 _____