



Wakefield Historical Society

Post Office Box 1902
Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880

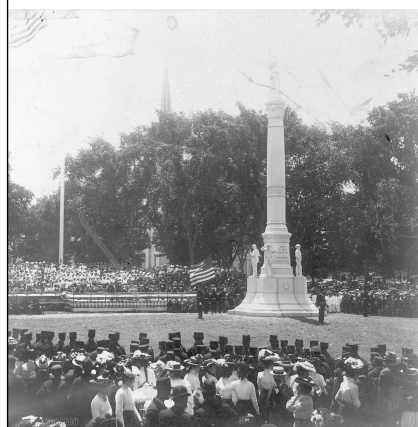
September, 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

This year the Wakefield Historical Society enters its 136th year! Founded in 1890, we've managed to survive two world wars, the Great Depression, and at least two global pandemics! Through it all, with your help, we've been able to be true to our mission of preserving and protecting the town's history. In fact, with the hundreds of emails that come to us every year, we're reaching more people, and learning more about our history every day!

Local history makes the past more immediate, allowing us to meet more people and learn more stories that might otherwise have been lost to the past. During the past year, we have been able to more fully focus on individuals, spotlighting on our social media pages and in the **Wakefield Item**, 30 separate essays on **Wakefield's Women in March**, and, beginning on **October 1, look for 31 stories about the slate and marble stones** in our **Old Burying Ground** and the early settlers who were the bedrock of our town. Many of these will also be shared in the newspaper, and also included on our website, www.wakefieldhistory.org.

In May, we were so excited to support the Town in celebrating the Rededication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument after an extraordinarily beautiful repair and restoration. We have researched the bios of the soldiers and sailors who fought and died for the Union and were very happy to put together a very special exhibit to celebrate their memory. Some of the first donations to our collection, in 1890 when the Society was formed, were soldiers' 'souvenirs' from the War. These are showcased in the exhibit. We are happy to have two more Open Houses to showcase this exhibit: visit the Museum on **Sunday, September 28th from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.** and on **Sunday, October 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.** to see the exhibit!



After the October Open House, we'll be storing away much of the Civil War Exhibit to make way for an exhibit showcasing the extraordinary women who helped to shape our town in a **Wakefield's Women** exhibit. We'll focus on not only the 31 women whose biographies we've published but also many new stories we've uncovered and new characters we've met. It will also spotlight new donations to the collection, from lacy antique wedding gowns to Women's Club notes and WHS majorette uniforms and headdresses. A folk art painting made by young Mary Swain in 1827. Everything old is new again in the Museum, and we invite you to help us allow our collection to grow and be safeguarded for the future.

Meanwhile, we've got so much work to do and so few hands to achieve it. **We are always looking for volunteers at the Museum and for the Board. If you are interested, let us know!**

In the meantime, visit our website to see updates, and perhaps take one of our neighborhood online walking tours, from the comfort of your desktop, or with your cellphone in hand and walking shoes on your feet. You can take the **LAKESIDE WALKING TOUR**, the **DOWNTOWN TOUR**, and the **PROSPECT & CHURCH STREETS TOUR**.

We're using email for notifications to members and friends --if you'd like to join our list, include your email address on the membership form at the bottom of this page or send a note!

As we prepare to enter the holiday season, we are mindful of all that we are thankful for. **In 1863, President Lincoln called for an official national day of Thanksgiving, to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Although the nation was divided and wracked by war, with 50,000 dead at Gettysburg alone, the tide seemed to be turning** and President Lincoln knew that we needed to unite in thanks, and in hope for the future. Even here in our town, then known as South Reading, families gathered, joining hands to share love and bending heads to share faith. Our preserved local history is so important as it humanizes great events and connects us all to Wakefield's local history, as well as to our shared national values and identity.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, we give thanks for you, our members and friends. We thank you for your continued support of the Wakefield Historical Society. As you know, the Society depends upon your annual dues contributions to fund its work of preserving and protecting the town's history. **Membership dues and other donations provide our basic funding and are a key source of support for our organization.** Standard required costs for the Museum, such as utilities and routine maintenance, are growing. Any donation would be accepted with the utmost gratitude! (The WHS is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.)

We attach a response form to this letter for your convenience. *We can also now accept donations electronically by PayPal through our website, <http://www.wakefieldhistory.org>.

Thank you so much for working with us to preserve Wakefield's history!

Wakefield Historical Society Membership Response Form

Name _____

Address _____ City/Town/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Membership Donation: _____ (\$20 Individual; \$25 Family; \$125 Life; \$250 Corporate)

Donation to the Museum Operating Fund: _____ *Thank you!*

Please return this form to:

Wakefield Historical Society, P.O. 1902, Wakefield, MA 01880 or send payments online at
<http://www.wakefieldhistory.org>

