



Newsletter

Vol. 19, No. 4 April 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 meeting of the Society will be April 21, 2022, at 6:30 via ZOOM.
Meeting ID 541 310 9806 Password 200924.

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

Happy April



**National
Walking Day**

6th Walking



**NATIONAL
PET DAY**

11th Pets



Earth Day

22nd Earth



**National
Pretzel Day**

26th Pretzels

Free Money

Attention High School Seniors: The Lee Historical Society gives two scholarships each year. One honors Stephen Cozzaglio and one honors Delores Eckert and Marion Leach. Applications are in the Guidance Office or on the Lee Historical Society website.

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.

The Veterans Project

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

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 (Phil, Karen, Gary, Tracie, Bill, Mal, Mary, Peg – we welcome more team members). (e-mail GaryWAllen@earthlink.net to be put in touch with one of them.)

Here a recent veteran's item. Check the "Veteran's Stories" section of the website for more details.

Karen and Gary have been in touch with Dennis Zeininger. He is the Commander of Bossidy Crerar VFW post 893 here in Lee. He has provided information on VFW members who are part of the group of living veterans that we haven't yet found (they aren't buried or on memorials, which is where we started looking).

There is a link on our website to theirs (leevfw.org). Their website has stories of the two veterans for whom the VFW Chapter is named and a list of veterans who were killed while in the service.

Thank you to the VFW members for your service and thank you Dennis for your help.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

(a Q & A QUESTION):



This "Italianate" house, or Italian villa, was built in 1872.

The architects were from Philadelphia and the house shows a "city influence".

Can you identify it from this detail view ?

(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 August 3, 1976 *Penny Saver*

In 1922 an "Old Timer" stood in front of the Gleaner office, (now Lee Hardware) near his old horse, Dolly who stood patiently at the curb. He related to the Gleaner man,

"Think old Dolly has about passed her usefulness, eh?.....that I ought to be drivin' an automobile? Yes, I know times have changed and some think horses too danged slow, entirely out of date, and that a man has got to have a machine now-a-days to be anybody. But let me tell you

one thing son, don't think Lee had no speed in the old days. We had horses, good horses, horses that they'd stop and look at when we drove by, and most of us had at least one horse in the barn that could step along tolerably good, too.

Lee was some hoss town years ago, take it back along in the 'eighties' and she could show up about as much valuable hoss flesh as any town in the country.

There was the Lee Pleasure Park (where today's Sewage Disposal Plant is built) -- where anyone could try 'em out and most everyone smelled hossy in those days. Why, bless my soul, a business man wasn't in it a little bit, unless he owned at least one good stepper.

The Flat (Housatonic Street) and Main Street were the regular race courses in the winter. They used to pack down the snow and clear away the teams and get up a friendly brush every afternoon when the weather was right.

Those were the good old days -- no more free shows of that kind anymore. It's too bad, but everything else that used to be---it isn't now. Well, Goodbye son, Old dolly and I'll be joggin along home."

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

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" and "Rock Stars and Paper Tigers". Both shows are also on YouTube. You can search by title and find them there.

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 was 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."



From Lee Historical Commission records:

This is the “John Stullman House” at the corner of Academy and High streets. The shutters on the house are all original.

Mr. Stullman was in charge of shipping Lee Marble to build the new wing of the Capitol. He and E. A. Moore founded a lime kiln which became Lee Lime. He was an accomplished horseman and rode in races for F. S. Gross

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 _____