



Newsletter

Vol. 19, No. 5 May 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 May 19, 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 May



**MILITARY SPOUSE
APPRECIATION DAY**

9th Military Spouse



Mother's Day

8th Mothers



ARMED FORCES DAY

21st Armed Forces



National Wine Day

25th Wine

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

May 9 at 12:00 in the meeting room of NBT bank, there will be a planning meeting for Founders Weekend, which will be September 16 to 18. Please share your ideas with a Board member about how the Society will be represented.

The Veterans Project

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

There has been a “Grand Opening” for the website. Karen, Phil, and Gary determined that we have enough confirmed information to “go public” with what we have. The website is continually updated, so if you can supply key pieces of data that are missing, it will 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 are recent veteran’s items. Check the “Veteran’s Stories” section of the website for others.

There was an obituary of 102 year old Lee vet – Joseph Gaherty in the April 27th Eagle.

“The Veterans Project” is a show on CTSB; interviews with veterans. Some of those veterans are in their 90’s, or even older. The Dalton public TV station is the source of the shows, but Dalton shares them with CTSB, where they are regularly broadcast. There are 104 interviews available in the CTSB archives.

Please keep reading. Mal found an article that seems very interesting. It’s a little further along in the newsletter.

IT’S ALL IN THE DETAILS

(a Q & A QUESTION):



If you want to know the time, this is one source.

From North, South, East, or West, you can read the clock.

One night a month, the structure is illuminated.

Can you identify it from this detail view ?

(The full story is on the last page.)

AN ARTICLE: This month, Betty gets the month off.

Mal Eckert found the following in "A HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS IN THE CIVIL WAR" (pages 17 and 18) written by William Schouler and published in 1871. Part is reproduced here.

LEE

Incorporated Oct. 21, 1777. Population in 1860, 4,420; in 1865, 4,034. Valuation in 1860, \$1,731,778; in 1865, \$1,682,411.

1861. The first legal town meeting, to consider war matters, was held May 4th, which was opened with prayer by Rev. Nathan Gale, D.D. Voted, that a military company of at least sixty four men be enrolled "to hold themselves in readiness for a call into active service" On motion of Marshall Wilcox, Esq., it was Resolved. That the inhabitants of Lee deem it important that the Government of the United States should have the hearty and earnest encouragement and active assistance of every loyal citizen in suppressing the treasonable rebellion which aims at the overthrow of our laws and the Constitution of the land; and that as citizens of Lee, actuated by a love of our country and of universal liberty, we are ready to share in the common effort of sustaining our Government; and, as a town, we assure those of our citizens who shall enter into the service of the Government as volunteer soldiers, that their families dependent upon them shall be well and honorably provided for and sustained during their entire absence.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and the selectmen were authorized to borrow three thousand dollars. Issac C. Ives, William Taylor, Harrison Garfield, and John Branning were joined with the selectmen in expenditure of the money. The selectmen were also authorized to procure a suitable room for drilling purposes.

1862. April 6th, the selectmen were authorized to borrow money for the payment of aid to the families of volunteers. July 21st, voted to pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each volunteer for three years' service who has enlisted, or who may enlist, to the number of thirty seven, said bounty to be paid when properly mustered in and credited; and the selectmen were authorized to borrow thirty seven hundred dollars to pay the same. August 28th, it was voted to pay the same amount of bounty to volunteers for nine months' service, to be paid by notes running for nine months with interest; but if any volunteer "thus raised be dishonorably discharged, said note to be void." October 11th, it having been found that the notes thus given could not be negotiated, and were therefore unsuited for the purpose, the town voted to pay the bounty in money.

1863. July 25th, the selectmen were authorized to borrow money to pay State aid to the families of drafted men. September 26th, voted to raise seven thousand two hundred and forty seven dollars and fifty two cents to settle bounty money, as provided in Section 9 of chapter 218 of the Acts of 1863.

1864. April 9th. The bounty for volunteers for three years' service was fixed at one hundred and twenty five dollars, which was the amount paid to each until the end of the war. Several meetings were held during the year to appropriate money for State aid and recruiting purposes, and power was given to the selectmen to recruit men, borrow money, and pay bounties.

The town of Lee, according to the return made by the selectmen in 1866, furnished two hundred and ninety five men for the war, but as the town furnished its full quota of men upon every call of the president, and had a surplus of fifteen at the end of the war, over and beyond all demands, it is clear that the number furnished must have been at least four hundred, including those who paid

commutation money. Fifteen were commissioned officers. The whole amount of money appropriated and expended by the town on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was twenty one thousand six hundred and fifty four dollars and fifty six cents (\$21,654.56). This is exclusive of the money contributed by citizens to encourage recruiting, which was quite large in amount.

The sum raised and expended by the town during the four years of the war for State aid to the families of soldiers, and which was afterwards reimbursed by the Commonwealth, was as follows: In 1861, \$1,367.71; in 1862, \$4,905.59; in 1863, \$6,253.61; in 1864, \$5,149.55 and in 1865, \$3,100. Total amount in four years \$20,776.46.

In regard to the work done by the ladies of Lee, William J. Bartlett, Esq., writes, "that \$1,005.17 in cash was sent to the Christian Commission during 1863 and 1864, of which the ladies of Lee contributed \$470.10; they also sent four boxes of comfortable things to the soldiers, valued at \$175." A lady informs us that, "besides the four boxes sent by the ladies of Lee to the Christian Commission, several other boxes, far more valuable, were sent by them to the hospitals, of which no record has been preserved. I remember one worth one hundred dollars, sent to Miss Dix at Washington. As to the value and destination of the other boxes, or their number, I cannot speak definitely."

The Society on Television:

Phil Smith and Gary Allen participated in a show to publicize the Lee Veterans Website. It will air on channel 1301. Sunday May 1 at 7:00 PM.

If you go to CTSBTV.org and select Channel 1301, you can search the schedule for this show and for "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, or questions. 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 this building from this larger shot - even though it's still not all of the building.

The Society toured High Lawn Farms one day several years ago. If memory serves, this structure is a water tower to store water for everyday and emergency purposes.

The tower is close to High Lawn's ice cream parlor. They have cones and milk shakes, along with a selection of their cheeses. Picnic tables make a lovely site for a warm summer afternoon.

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 _____