



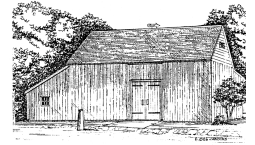
# Local Lore

October, 2004  
Issue 17

The Topsfield Historical Society Newsletter

WEB Address (<http://www.topsfieldhistory.org>) Email [topshist@tiac.net](mailto:topshist@tiac.net)

P.O. Box 323, Topsfield, Massachusetts 01983



## WW I Artifact Returns to Topsfield

A retired woman in North Carolina sent in a booklet entitled "The War Activities of Topsfield, MA During the Great War 1917-1918". It lists six locally formed organizations which helped the war effort, including home gardening and canning, raising funds for the French wounded, selling Liberty bonds and making bandages. The booklet describes a town meeting on March 5, 1917 where the town voted to adopt three resolutions endorsing the action of the President of the United States in dismissing the German ambassador, urging Congress into an extra session to use the full power of the nation in defense of American rights and pledging the town's loyalty and support to the President. The booklet lists the men who entered service and other war related data. In 1917 the town contained about 1,100 people, yet they were able to raise over \$500,000 in Liberty loans and other war-related campaigns, canned 3,000 jars of fruits and vegetables and 123 gallons of jam, made over 15,000 surgical dressings and other hospital supplies.

The booklet lists Emma A. Floyd as its owner. Does anyone know of her? Please let the Society know.

## Capen House Restoration Update

The upstairs window frames were repaired or replaced, the second floor display room was painted and its floor repaired, a concrete floor was poured in the left basement, and drainpipes were installed along the rear of the foundation to control water runoff. Also note that non-skid slabs have replaced the stone walkway leading to the Gould Barn...they are much safer.

## Kimball Scholarships Awarded

Three grants totaling \$15,000 were awarded last spring. One was for tuition assistance for Topsfield resident Matthew Diamond, a history major at the University of Delaware. The second went to Gordon College's Professor David Goss to engage selected students to put together a paper and exhibit concerning Topsfield and the American Revolution. Since then, the students have been selected and the project is off to a strong start.

The third one went to the Topsfield Elementary School Committee to support a "History of Topsfield" project, a program outside the regular curriculum for academically strong fifth grade students at Proctor School. The program will focus on studying the town's history in depth.

Welcome new members John and Kathy Meserve of Topsfield!

## Recent THS Acquisitions

- A complete 33 volume set of the THS historical collections and the 1850 bicentennial address by Rev. Nehemiah Cleveland, donated by Yolanda Marciano.
- A set of 1913 Boston and Salem newspapers, donated by Dawn Erickson.
- 1,000 35 MM slides taken by the Wellman family, donated by the Topsfield Town Hall.
- Five-tined wooden plow of undetermined age, discovered in Capen House basement

Contributors	Editor/Designer
<u>Norm Isler</u>	<u>Anne Barrett</u>

## Upcoming Events

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM  
**History of  
Political Campaign Buttons**  
Donald Doliber

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM  
**Topsfield Then and Now**  
Jan Jansen

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:00  
**Witches Roost for Children**

## Kids' Corner



Columbus Day is just around the corner! To you it means a holiday, but of course you know that Columbus Day is to commemorate Christopher Columbus who discovered the New World where we now live.

Christopher Columbus grew up in Genoa, Italy, the red-haired, blue-eyed son of a weaver. Columbus worked in his father's shop preparing the wool for weaving.

When Columbus was fourteen, he began sailing with ships trading up and down the coast of Italy. In this way he learned the art of sailing, and he studied maps and charts. When he grew up, he became a sailor, making many voyages, including one on which pirates attacked his ship. He was adrift for a day before fishermen near Lisbon, Portugal pulled him out. Columbus stayed in Lisbon, which was a powerful seaport at that time. He learned Portuguese and Latin, and began to dream of reaching the Far East by sailing around the world, which he believed was round.

He asked the King of Portugal for assistance, but was rejected. He then asked King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain for help, but they made him wait many years before they finally gave him the money and ships he needed; the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Now Columbus was ready for his great voyage.

*Next month: what happened on that voyage?*