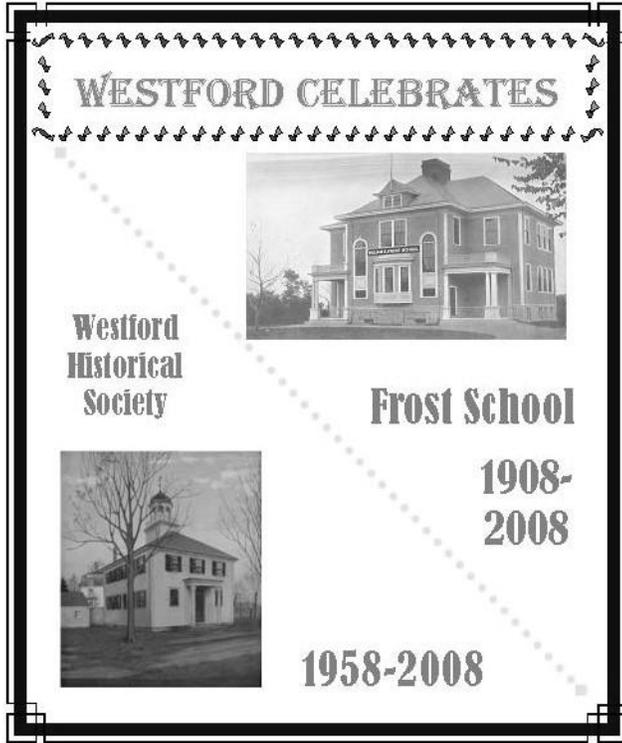


# Westford Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years!

20 November 1958-2008



## 1950s Sock Hop

Saturday 18 October 2008 7:00-10:30 p.m.  
Fun for all ages in the Roudenbush gym

An authentic sock hop will be held in conjunction with the Frost School's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We'll have rootbeer, a DJ playing records, dance contests, and much more at this multi-generational event. Refreshments will be available. So pull out your poodle skirt and saddle shoes, and plan to dance the night away! Tickets will be available at Roudenbush, Frost School and the Museum.

**Wine and Cheese  
Anniversary Reception**  
Thursday 20 November 2008 7:00  
at the Museum



On the date of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there will be a wine and cheese reception in conjunction with our annual meeting. The reception will begin at 7:00, with a toast precisely at 7:35 p.m. All members of the Westford Historical Society are welcome to attend this celebration. New members are also welcome at the reception and the annual meeting. Details will be posted on our website and mailed to members.

## Atwood-Millett House

Daniel and Caroline Atwood moved to Westford in 1858 from Pelham, N.H., with their five children and Caroline's parents, Edward & Sarah (Lowell) Carlton of Methuen. They first lived on the "Nashoba Farm" at the corner of Hildreth Street and Concord Road. Their sixth child, Mary "May" Atwood was born here in 1860. In 1878, when Daniel retired from farming, they built the house at 4 Graniteville Road. Daniel and Caroline moved in with their three unwed daughters. After Daniel and Caroline died, their three unmarried daughters, Carrie, Lillie and May, continued to live in the house. In 1946, after Carrie and Lillie died, May invited her niece, Grace Millett and her husband, Nathan, to live in the Westford house with her. Their son, William "Bill" Millett, an accomplished artist, later joined his parents. May died in 1951, Nathan in 1955, and Grace in 1971, after which Bill lived here alone until his death in November 2007. Thus, one family lived in this house for nearly 130 years.

### *House Tour*

Debby Stein Sharpe, administrator of the estate of William Millett, hired two professional organizers, Carol Harper and Betsy Caney, to go through the house and dispose of its contents. Debby kindly donated many items of historical interest to the Westford Historical Society, and on June 18, Strawberry Festival Day, before the house was placed on the market, she allowed the Society to provide tours of this historical Westford home. The tour was quite successful and provided an opportunity for Westford citizens to visit this historic old home.

### *Atwood-Millett Family Lecture*

On Thursday, September 15, at 7:30 the Society is pleased to welcome Carol Harper and Betsy Caney to the Westford Museum to give a talk on *Discovering the Atwood-Millett Family in Westford*. They will describe the home and its contents, illustrated with photographs they took as they worked through the house and prepared it for sale. They will also give us a better understanding of the people who lived in this house. Betsy will talk about the Atwood family and Carol will discuss the Millett family, with particular emphasis on Bill and his paintings.

## Lend A Hand for the Bandstand And for the Museum, too!

### “One of Westford’s Beauty Spots” The Town Common

By Allister MacDougall, Westford *Eagle* 1988

“As one drives through Westford Center whether they be residents of the town or strangers, most are drawn to gaze on the beauty of our town common.

“An event of importance to happen on the common was the erection of the flagpole on Saturday, May 18, 1861.

“Soon after this a grandstand was built around the base of the flagpole and served as a gathering place of band concerts and other celebrations for many years.

“... the flagpole was repaired in 1901.

“This was probably the time that the bandstand was removed.”

Twenty years after Allister MacDougall, a founder of the Westford Historical Society, wrote the above words, another generation in Westford undertook the rebuilding of the 1861 “grandstand” around the flagpole on Westford Common.

In January of this year, the president of the Westford Rotary offered a gift of \$7500 toward the building of a bandstand on Westford Common. A year earlier, the Common Restoration Project had asked woodworker David Fox of Westford to draw plans of the original bandstand based on an 1890 photo in the Historical Society’s collection.

Within weeks of the presentation of the Rotary gift to the Westford Historical Society, eighty Westford families had pledged an additional \$17,000.

Then the Westford Academy Community Service Team chose the bandstand, the common and the buildings around Westford Common as their spring 2008 project, while Nashoba Tech carpentry students offered to build the framing for the bandstand. The WA students named the project, “Lend a Hand for the Bandstand.”

Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>, over fifty volunteers from the Westford Academy Community Service Team worked from dawn til dusk. By the time the sun set on Westford Common that day the Academy students and Dave Fox had installed the decking on the frame built by Nashoba Tech, another Academy team and Derek and Doug Preston of DP Turf & Irrigation finished installing a sprinkler system that covers the whole

common, and all the sign posts and benches which were installed a decade ago were restained.

Across Lincoln Street at the Westford Museum, yet another crew from Westford Academy cleaned out the basement; painted the columns, the front door and the flagpole; and took down the Museum sign to be sanded and repainted.

Throughout the summer, Dave Fox and his apprentice James Severance worked to install the stairs and craft the exquisite balustrades on the bandstand. A tent was purchased that can be put during the summer months to keep the sun off musicians and their instruments. In August, the wheelchair lift to bring the bandstand in compliance with architectural access requirements was installed.

At 3:30 in the afternoon on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>, the new bandstand will be dedicated as part of the second annual Common Celebration & Apple Pie Bake Off.

Because it was the 1890 photograph of the forty-two students then enrolled at Westford Academy gathered on the bandstand that inspired the building of the 2008 bandstand, that Sunday afternoon in October 2008, the new bandstand will be photographed for the Westford Historical Society archives.

The 2008 photograph will also have Westford Academy students on the bandstand: the forty-two members of the Westford Academy Community Service Team who built the bandstand on May 31<sup>st</sup>, dressed in 1890s costume.



*WHS President Dan Lacroix raises the flag on the newly painted flagpole as board members, Westford Academy students and other volunteers finish the cleanup on the 31 May Community Service Team work day.*

## 2008-2009 Programs Announced

**Thursday 18 September** – *Discovering the Atwood-Millet Family in Westford* by Carol Harper and Betsy Caney, estate organizers. Free.

**Saturday 18 October** – 1950s Sock Hop in celebration of the Historical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Frost School. To be held at Roudenbush.

**Thursday 20 November** – 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Westford Historical Society. Wine and cheese reception to be held in conjunction with our annual meeting. Open to all WHS members.

**Sunday 7 December** – Annual Holiday Bake-off and concert

**Sundays 11 & 25 Jan 2009** – Carrie Midura, historic clothing consultant – bring your antique clothing in on the 11<sup>th</sup> for Carrie to examine; she'll return on the 25<sup>th</sup> with information and recommendations.

**Thursdays in February** – Book discussion of the *New Old Houses of Westford*, led by Ellen Harde. Free. Pre-registration suggested

**Saturday 14 March** – *The Siege of Boston* presented by John and Abigail Adams, an evening affair.

**Thursday 9 April** – *Revolutionary Westford* presented by Dan Lacroix. Free

**May** – Railroads in Westford – model train exhibit, RR photo contest and other related events

For details on individual events and tickets, visit our website at [www.westford.com/museum](http://www.westford.com/museum)



## Music at the Museum Westford Folk Concert Series

Warm up performances start at about 7:15 p.m.. The concerts start at 8 p.m. Refreshments are pot luck. Our seating space is limited. If you are not a season ticket holder, please call 978-692-5550 or e-mail [museum@westford.com](mailto:museum@westford.com) to reserve a seat.

10 Oct 08 **Ari and Mia Friedman** “Adventurous & lyrical” original & traditional music with vocals, fiddle, cello, guitar, & banjo ([ariandmiefriedman.com](http://ariandmiefriedman.com))

14 Nov 08 **BCM Fest Young Musicians** Pan-celtic music by some of the areas best young musicians ([bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com))

12 Dec 08 **Stambandet** A return of the Scandinavian vocal ensemble, with captivating 6 & 7-part harmonies in 6 languages ([stambandet.org](http://stambandet.org))

9 Jan 09 **The Lindsays** Traditional and contemporary folk acoustic duo (vocal, guitar, flute), presented with passion, sincerity and fun ([irishmusic.us](http://irishmusic.us))

13 Feb 09 **Three Tall Pines** An acoustic co-op with “impassioned harmonies and progressive instrumentation” ([threetallpines.com](http://threetallpines.com))

13 Mar 09 **Lydia Thornton** Original & traditional music and musical stories from Ireland & Appalachia ([myspace.com/lydiathornton](http://myspace.com/lydiathornton))

10 Apr 09 **Flowing Tide** (with Sandy Davis) Lively musical arrangements of traditional dance music on a wide variety of instruments

8 May 09 **Carrie Cheron** “Gifted songwriter and master song interpreter,” classically trained, influenced by world folk traditions ([carriecheron.com](http://carriecheron.com))

5 Jun 09 **Stephen Webber & Friends** The annual blowout from the Emmy-award-winner, Berklee students and friends (at the PCA, 10 Lincoln St., Westford, MA)

*Details and ticket information at  
[westford.com/museum/music](http://westford.com/museum/music)*

## In the Museum Shop!

New Westerwald pottery with “Westford est. 1729” is available in the museum gift shop. In addition to the ever-popular mugs and honey pots, we’ve added a 1-quart pitcher and a bean pot. Stop by and do some shopping!



## Contact Us

The Westford Museum is located at 2 Boston Road, next to the Parish Center for the Arts.

The Museum is open Sunday afternoons (except holidays) from 2:00-4:00, or by appointment. Check our on-line calendar for specific dates.

The Westford Historical Society office is located in the cottage at 4 Boston Road. Regular business hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Office phone/fax: 978-692-5550

We're on the web at [www.westford.com/museum](http://www.westford.com/museum).

Penny Lacroix [MuseumDirector@westford.com](mailto:MuseumDirector@westford.com)

[Museum@westford.com](mailto:Museum@westford.com) (for folk concert tickets)

Summer 2008

## Westford Museum Musings EXPANDED

The Westford Historical Society  
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Ph/Fax: 978/692-5550  
[www.westford.com/museum](http://www.westford.com/museum)

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