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Brimfield Historical Commission

A Message From the BHC

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Hope everyone enjoys their turkey, pies, football and family as we celebrate a day of Thanksgiving!

This issue highlights some of the Commission's past projects along with an update on current ones like the Town Flag and Records Preservation. Add in a request for the donation of historical documents, a reminder that our Brimfield history book is still available and an amusing story from 60 years ago and we have our November newsletter.

Members

Sue DeBruin, Chairperson
Adrienne Bachand
Roseann Bergdoll
Mark Conners
Robert Corry
John Curtis
Michael DeFalco

Donating Historical Materials

If you have any historical documents or photographs pertaining to Brimfield history or her residents that you don't want or don't know what to do with, please consider donating them to the Brimfield Historical Commission. A large part of our mission is to promote and preserve Brimfield history and one

important way to manage that is by insuring that items contributing to and documenting that history are kept and made available to future generations. If you share our love of town history and are considering making a donation, please contact a Commission member to discuss the process and answer any questions you might have. If you do have historical items but don't wish to part with them, consider allowing the Historical Commission to make digital copies and then return the originals.

November, 1941

From the November 14, 1941 edition of the Springfield Republican

NINE MEN USE CROWBAR TO 'UNLOCK' TWO BUCKS

Brimfield, Nov. 13 – Their antlers in a death lock, two buck deer which fought all night on isolated Brimfield mountain today were released by Conservation Officer James F. Donohue who pried them apart with a crowbar after almost half an hour's work.

Freed and near exhaustion, one of the bucks turned on Donahue after its release and attempted to gore him. The officer managed to jump out of the animal's path, however, as the deer's antlers caught and tore his trouser leg.

The two bucks weighing an estimated 200 pounds each, were discovered with their antlers locked, fighting and pawing at each other in a brook near the Dunhamtown section of Brimfield by Mrs. James Harrington.

She told Donahue her dogs had barked and bayed most of the night. Attempting to determine what had bothered them today, she walked through the woods near her home and discovered the two animals.

Donahue at first planned to shoot the animals and then determined that he might be able to pry them apart. With the help of nine neighbors, after working nearly a half-hour, he managed to free the bucks.

*Revolutionary War
Monument*

In March 2007, Bernie Samek approached the Brimfield Historical Commission (BHC) to inform them that he had designed a granite monument to honor the Revolutionary War veterans from Brimfield. The BHC agreed to view the memorial stone which was propped against Bernie's barn on Old Palmer Rd. in Brimfield. BHC member Mark Conners was assigned to visit Bernie and evaluate the memorial. Mark was impressed with the rough cut engraved stone with 13 stars in a circular array and brought back photos to show the BHC. The Commission agreed that the stone would make an excellent monument for the Town Common. The BHC approached the Board of Selectmen seeking permission to place the stone on the Common. The BOS immediately approved the placement on the Common and within two weeks the stone was installed,

thanks to the BOS, the Town Highway Dept. and Bernie's son who donated the base stone for the memorial. A plaque was added to the memorial thanks to Jim Adams arranging for Morin Funeral Home to manufacture the plaque and affix it to the monument stone. The plaque read: "Dedicated to the patriots of Brimfield and all Revolutionary War veterans whose courage, sacrifice, vision, and spirit gave birth to our enduring freedoms." The memorial was dedicated at the annual Memorial Day celebration on May 27th, 2007. The monument has occupied a prominent position on the Common for over 16 years and represents an example of our community pulling together to accomplish something of significance on a timely basis. Thanks to Bernie Samek for his generous contribution!

Brimfield Town Flag

Brimfield once again has a town flag. The original one that the town owned had disappeared. (A second flag currently flies in the Hall of Flags at the Massachusetts State House). Thanks to the flag's designer, Nicholas Niemi, a new one was created. A ceremony will be held next year to officially turn the flag over to the town for public use.



Nicholas Niemi and BHS member, Mike DeFalco holding the flag at a recent meeting of the Commission.

Gazebo

Since the gazebo was completed last year, it has been used for a number of events, particularly the Concerts on the Common. Check out how Brimfield residents are enjoying the newest addition to the Common.





***101 Things To Know About
Brimfield***

With Christmas fast approaching, the Historical Commission book, *101 Things To Know About Brimfield*, would make a great gift for that family member or friend who no longer lives in town. It is still available for \$15 at the following locations – Hitchcock Academy, Brimfield Library and the Apple Barn. They will also be sold at St. Christopher’s Holiday Fair on November 18 and 19. The book provides a brief history of the people, places and things that have shaped Brimfield’s almost 300 years of existence. Learn about the Brimfield woman who became the “Mother of Oregon”, Massachusetts’ only Horse Cemetery and the doctor who

was elected to the Balloon Hall of Fame. Be entertained, informed and educated. It's a great read and makes a wonderful gift for family and friends.

Record Preservation

A team of Commission members and a town resident have diligently been documenting and preserving the valuable historic records in the Town Hall. A recent "discovery" was the following order by the Selectmen on April 17, 1933, just 10 days after Prohibition was repealed.

