



Winter 2014

The Marston's Grist

The newsletter of the Marstons Mills Historical Society
P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648 marstonsmillshistorical.org

A few thoughts from the President for 2014...

The Marstons Mills Historical Society is thirty years old and heralds in the exciting new year with a designated location for historical documents, oral histories, artifacts and photographs. More details will be forthcoming.

Great pride, respect and admiration is due the many generations of Marstons Mills residents who pioneered a path to the future. The history of Marstons Mills is rooted in the farms, mills and shops of self-made carpenters, millers and blacksmiths, and let us not forget the animals that hauled, provided nourishment and transportation. Long before there was a historical society, the village cultivated prominent individuals in the fields of law, medicine, politics, education, literature and the arts through the years. Their strength and character needs to be recorded, and some has been recorded in the pages of *Images of America - Marstons Mills* by local historians Vivian Cushing and James Gould.

Think about this for a minute or two or more: would you like to do something a little different this year? Something that will go down in history? "How do I do that," you ask? The door of opportunity is waiting for you to open it. Become a member of the Marstons Mills Historical Society. There are no age limits. Meetings are held once a month. Perhaps you can volunteer some time, exercise your brain, share your knowledge, gain insights, meet friends and neighbors. Become a member and you too will be part of the history of "our special village." Please visit our website marstonsmillshistorical.org; you will be delightfully surprised.

We applaud Robert Frazee, outgoing MMHS president, for the accomplishments and strides he made, and we appreciate his compassion and endless attention to detail, which encouraged the growth of the Society. As his tenure ended, a wonderful invitation was presented to me to be nominated for the position of president for 2014. In the coming year, we have ambitious goals that will be possible to meet with embraceable support, volunteers and much needed funding. Help us keep Marstons Mills the very special place it is meant to be and remembered for future generations. Let's keep it alive and well.

Very best regards,
Sandra L. Bolton

SANDY SNEAKERS WALKS THE VILLAGE...



Well I am curious. What are all the cars doing in Burgess Park this time of year? It's cold, and cloudy and people are standing around chatting. What's going on? I just walked right over to the group and asked "What's going on?" They are sociable and went on to tell me they play Disc Golf. They are a team. How many villages have Disc Golf? Just another thing Marstons Mills has that makes it special.

The Mission of the Marstons Mills Historical Society is to foster an interest in the story of our village. We preserve historical images, documents and artifacts, research historic resources and support educational opportunities for all ages for villagers and other interested persons, in order to better understand and appreciate the past, present and future of Marstons Mills.

Coming Events..

- Marstons Mills is participating in the 375th Anniversary of the town of Barnstable; details to follow on our website marstonsmillshistorical.org.
- **Tuesday, 18 March @2:30 p.m.** Meeting of the Marstons Mills Historical Society, Liberty Hall (2150 Main Street, Marstons Mills). ****NOTE THE TIME CHANGE.**

MARSTONS MILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Sandra Bolton

Vice-President: Hank Farnham

Secretary: David Martin

Treasurer: Nancy Wong

See the Arcadia publication,
"Marstons Mills," by Jim
Gould and Vivian Cushing:
*[marstonsmillshistorical.org/
publications](http://marstonsmillshistorical.org/publications)*

The MMHS meets on
the third Tuesday of
every month at 2:30 p.m.



Comments and articles
for submission should be
sent to the editor at
sturgisreference@comcast.net

Cut out and return to the address on the bottom of the form.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

I / we wish to join the Society and enclose payment for my / our Individual Membership(s) at \$15 each.

I / we wish to make a charitable contribution to the Society to support the development of its Village Archives and the Preservation of its Collection.

\$250 \$150 \$75 \$25 \$10 Other _____

Name: _____

Street / POB: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

I / we wish to be notified about MMHS Meetings.

The Marstons Mills Historical Society is
a 501 (c) 3 Charitable Organization

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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE...

The Oral History Committee is proceeding forward with the collection and coordination of a significant set of oral interviews with Marstons Mills citizens who have knowledge about the history of the village both from their own families and from their own experiences.

A combination of previously audio-taped interviews with Tales of Cape Cod some years ago and a set of interactive interviews by MMHS members in the past 15 years has resulted in 36 transcribed interviews thus far. These are being scanned carefully by Bob Frazee into digital form for all those who have given permission to have their interviews be accessible on the Internet through the MMHS website. All transcribed interviews in written form will also be available in a three-ring binder in the Library for review by anyone researching village history. This collection is a valuable archive for all researchers interested in the village and its varied history.

Additional interviews are being organized and carried out by a committee that includes Nancy Wong, Dianne Potter, Jim Gould, Claire Melix and David Martin. Anyone who would like to be interviewed about their recollections of the village is invited to contact David at 508-527-0460.

GOODSPEED HOUSE--THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE



When you drive west of the village center on River Road, as you cross the river, you see the oldest house in Marstons Mills. Built before 1708, it is the third oldest house in the west half of town (after the Jenkins and Blossom houses in West Barnstable). It's also a couple of decades older than any house in Cotuit.

This 300 year-old Cape Cod cottage was built

by Ebenezer Goodspeed, Senior. He was born in Marstons Mills in 1655, perhaps the first white child born here. That he lived to be 101 says how healthy our climate must be.

His father Roger Goodspeed had been one of the first settlers of the town in 1639. He first lived in the very center of Barnstable village, where the Trayser



Museum/Custom House is now. He was one of the first to see the rich potential of the south side of the Cape, then called “the South Sea.”

Roger crossed the Cape to the Indians’ Mistake in 1653, only five years after Miles Standish made a deal with the local boss, Paupmunnock, to “give” the settlers nearly a third of the present town from Wequaquet to Cotuit for two kettles and a fence to keep the white mens’ cows out of the Indian cornfields. Ten years later the fence had not been built, and a second agreement had to be made, in which the famous “Kittle” and a “Howe” were paid for an even more generous grant including Martha’s Vineyard. Goodspeed was presumably part of this deal, building his first home near the mouth of the Herring River, close to Paupmunnock’s own wetu.

We do not know the location of Roger’s second house, built about 1665, on higher ground somewhere closer to the ponds, perhaps even where this oldest house is today. The local tradition was that this was Roger’s house, and it was recorded on the National Register in 1985 as dating about 1653. Robert Frazee’s research for his degree in historic preservation concluded that this was his son Ebenezer’s new house built between 1685 and 1710.

The Goodspeeds expanded the west side to create a full Cape Cod cottage, added a kitchen wing after 1840, built the barn about 1850, and tacked on a milk room before 1900.

This old house stayed in the Goodspeed family for over two centuries, until it was sold in 1954 by the estate of the last Goodspeed to live here, Apphia “Affie” Goodspeed Jones. In 1968 it was purchased by Joseph P. Muranyi of New York, who made some interior improvements but was careful to keep much of the original house. Joe, who died in 2012, was a well-known jazz clarinetist who played with Louis Armstrong’s “Allstars” 1967-71. His family, represented by daughter Adrienne Fuss, a MMHS member, continues to own “Goodspeed House.”

-by James Gould

This article was first published in the Barnstable Enterprise on 6 March 2010.

MMHS 30th ANNIVERSARY

The 30th Anniversary year of the Marstons Mills Historical Society was captured in a photo-journal of members, awards, events, individual citations, presentations and a citation presented by State Representatives Randy Hunt and Brian Mannal to the MMHS “in recognition of commitment and dedication to the village, improving our residents quality of life while preserving the history and character of the most beautiful and tranquil village in the Town of Barnstable on Cape Cod.”



Photo album on display for viewing the photo journal of Marstons Mills. (Photos by Sandra Bolton, David Martin and William Bolton)



THE MARSTONS MILLS HEARSE

The hearse is housed in the Hearse House, located in the Marstons Mills Cemetery on Route 149. It is in need of special attention by a craftsman who appreciates its history and has the desire and the funds to bring this magnificent historical artifact back to life.

At left, an MMHS member inspects the hearse in the Hearse House. Below, a close up of the elaborate hearse, which was procured for the village. The hearse was built by George L. Brownell in New Bedford MA at the Hearse Manufactory.



The Marstons Mills Cemetery sign on Route 149. (All photos by Sandra Bolton)