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Kingston Historical Museum

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Nichols Memorial Library on July 2, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Focus: **Kingston Days** (August 2 - 3, 2014)

Members present: Ruth Albert, Kathy Chase, Lindsay McDougall, Stacey Moyer and Gladys Ray; Friends present: Bob Bean, Jane Christie, Lesley Hume, Jef Flanders-McDougall, Walter Roy, Halcyon Springer

Introduction:

A group of dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly the past two years on Wednesday mornings at the Nichols Memorial Library and the museum complex (Fire House, Grace Daley Barn) to address the needs of the museum : control of the collections (ex.: inventory and cataloging); and scanning, cataloging and rehousing library collections (ex.: photographs, town reports). They created interesting exhibits for Kingston Days 2013 and special visits (ex.: the Bakie School 2nd grade field trip), and are presently active in designing additional exhibits for Kingston Days 2014. The team of talented individuals who have graciously given many hours of hard work to the museum include Ruth Albert, Lindsay McDougall, Jef-Flanders McDougall, Stacy Moyer, Gladys Ray, Bob Bean, Jane Christie, Chuck Geary, Lesley Hume, Walter Roy, Halcyon Springer and Dave Taylor.

Today's meeting focused primarily on exhibits and other concerns related to Kingston Days. Final decisions as regards Kingston Days exhibits, etc. will be made at a special meeting on Wednesday, July 9th, Nichols Memorial Library, 12:00 PM.

Kathy Chase, Secretary

The loom – Bob reported that professional weaver Pat Litman will be here on Kingston Days to demonstrate weaving on the museum loom (located on the top floor of the Fire House). The day (2nd or 3rd) and the time are to be determined. He suggested that someone tape the demonstration; the tape can be added to our collection and be used in future exhibits. Pat and her husband Mayer looked at the loom and determined that several pegs needed to be placed in the loom. Once the pegs are in place, she will return and practice weaving on the loom in preparation for the demonstration. She will need cloth fragments for the demo. If she brings the cloth, the museum could reimburse her. Pat also told Bob the names of some of the parts of the loom which he recorded for exhibit identification. "Pat Litman is a good resource," Bob said. Lesley pointed out that we have a spinning wheel as well, and suggested that we create an exhibit that tells the story of weaving and spinning (*Wool to Cloth*, for example.)

Harry "Whiskers" Clark exhibit and live historian Mark Bingham – Bob arranged for Mark Bingham, a history teacher and live historian to volunteer his services for Kingston Days, Saturday, August 2nd 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. He will play the role of Harry "Whiskers" Clark and take tintype photographs/portraits of visitors/general public for a small fee. His photographer tent (similar to the one Harry Clark would have used) will be set up on the lawn near the Grace Daley House. Stacey will create a poster to advertise the event. Jane suggested that the "museum staff" dress in period clothing for picture taking. She also suggested that the "Clark Clan" (Harry "Whiskers" Clark's family) be present for a group photo.

The Harry "Whiskers" Clark exhibit that Walt created will remain in the Nichols Memorial Library and will highlight the Mark Bingham exhibit/tent. The exhibit includes some of Clark's glass plates, scanned copies of some of his photographs, and his book which explains the chemical process he used to develop the glass negatives. Lesley suggested that there be an adjunct exhibit explaining the process (in steps) that Walt followed to create the exhibit. Stacey volunteered to make a poster of "The Restoration Story." Walt also suggested that we have a poster or photographs of the cameras and equipment that Harry Clark would have used. Ruth pointed out that Bob and Walt, through their efforts, have saved the museum thousands of dollars. "The public should know," she said.

Clark Carriage – Kathy said that her brother Skip will bring the Walter S. Clark Carriage to the Grace Daley Barn on Saturday morning. Like last year, the public may have their picture taken with the carriage. She will bring parasols for props. The carriage will be placed on the lawn to the left of the barn door.

King Tools – The King exhibit will remain in the Nichols Memorial Library for Kingston Days. The exhibit may eventually be placed in the Grace Daley Barn shed.

Bakie Store Exhibit – The exhibit will remain in the Nichols Memorial Library for Kingston Days. We will augment it at a later date.

The Fire House- top floor – Lindsay observed that there are too many items on the top floor and that the fireplace exhibit needs to be restored and redesigned. All agreed that this needs to be addressed. Lesley suggested that we create a "country kitchen nook" downstairs at the far end of the entryway. All agreed that we should consider it; the area/nook needs to be measured. It may be too small for a kitchen exhibit.

The Town Charter – Kathy said that she will write a letter to the selectmen requesting that the Charter be placed on display in the Nichols Memorial Library on Saturday, August 2nd. She will also contact Chief Briggs as regards its transportation/security.

Clothing Exhibit – Gladys will create an additional children's clothing exhibit for this year's Kingston Days. The clothing will be on display upstairs in the Fire House. She has purchased 4 small mannequins for the purpose – 2 babies, 1 little girl and 1 little boy. She would like to get *American Girl* wracks and doll clothes hangers in order to display more clothing items. In the meantime, she will use the new mannequins and a peg board with hangers for the present exhibit.

Oral History – Kathy said that she has a DVD of a 1992 interview that she did with her uncle, Donald Clark. The DVD includes photographs and was produced by her cousin, Becky Edminston, Donald's daughter. She suggested that there be an exhibit of the DVD and other videos (ex.: *Kingston History*) during Kingston Days. Bob said that we could show the DVDs on either the museum computer or TV screen. We would need a VCR player to show the videos. Jane said that she has begun an oral history project and has a recent tape (July, 2013) of an interview with Donald Clark. Kathy said that she has 1992 tapes of interviews with other relatives – her father Walter Clark and aunt, Marion Clark. She will look into having the tapes converted to DVDs. In 1992, in preparation for the 1994 celebration, she also

interviewed Elaine Cheney, Reynold Clements and Silvia Senter. As she recalls, the tapes were to be stored at the Nichols Memorial Library. If they haven't been misplaced, they should be at the Kingston Community Library.

World War I Exhibit - Halcyon has been working on this exhibit in preparation for Kingston Days. Jef just finished painting the display case to be used for the exhibit. In addition to the display case, there will be on exhibit a WWI uniform, an album of the WWI (end- of- war) parade and possibly, a diorama of one of the album photographs. Walt is making a diorama of a single-engine plane landing on the Plains. It is a creative project that includes a plastic plane model and a variety of materials. It may be ready for Kingston Days. There will also be a list of town residents who served in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The list may include the names of those who served in recent conflicts and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Research is needed. Ruth said she would call Liz Beede or Pat Cline. Also a male mannequin is needed to display the uniform.

Related to this is the subject of *the airstrip* which was located on South Road in the 1940's. Gladys recalls that a Mr. Bent ran a home weather station and an airstrip on South Road near the crest of Grey Hill. Jef said she would do some research to learn more about it.

Town History - Lesley suggested that there always be an exhibit on town history and that it be renewed periodically. Presently the history exhibit is housed in the main display case in the Nichols Memorial Library.

Security - Jef expressed concern that more attention be given to security this year. Last year, a hat was stolen from one of the mannequins. All agreed.

Signs and Flyers - Lesley said that signs advertising the museum opening will be placed in several places throughout town. Lindsay will create flyers for us to place in various locations in town and the surrounding areas.

Advertisements - Lindsay will advertise the museum opening and exhibits in several local papers; she will also ask that a reporter come before and during Kingston Days to give the museum and its Kingston Days opening good publicity. Ruth said that she will talk to a reporter as well.

Other:

File cabinets and empty shelves - Ruth suggested that the empty file cabinets and shelves be put to use. Kathy said that she just put two folders of hard copies of the minutes (2004 - present) and other official communications in the lower right drawer of the new desk.

Photo albums - Lesley said that the reproduction photos have been matched with the accession record but they need new labels. Lindsay suggested that we use pencil to write on the reproductions. Ruth affirmed this; it is the professional advice she received.

July 19th - Ruth reminded the committee that there will be a guest speaker at the Kingston Community Library on July 19th. His topic is "Big House, Little House." He needs an overhead projector and a

technical assistant. He also needs someone to forward slides [of Kingston houses]. Jane said she would talk with the library staff.

Museum openings and publicity -- Jef suggested that we open the museum to the public more often and that we do more to make the public aware of the progress that has been done. She expressed concern that the public is not aware that the Nichols Memorial Library is currently in use and has a function.

Signs - Kathy expressed the need for signs -- a new one to replace the small rectangular one on the west side of the Fire House; one by the entrance to the town hall/museum driveway; and one for the Nichols Memorial Library. Lesley agreed yet questioned what the title of the sign at the library should be. Kathy thought a sign could be added to the present one (Nichols Memorial Library) that states its function (ex.: Historical Collection and Research Center). She also suggested that all museum signs be of the same color and design/uniform.

Next meeting to discuss/finalize plans for Kingston Days is Wednesday, the 9th at 12:00 PM.

(A regular meeting will be scheduled at a later date. The agenda will include a schedule of museum openings/events; security; and the Bylaws.)