



Dear Members,

March, 2016

2016, The Year of The Educator

Anne Lemist Page opens first Danvers Kindergarten in 1860. History Week Program Celebrates 30 Years with Danvers School System.

TRUSTEES

Thomas M. Page, President
George Saluto, Vice-President
Michael E. Morris, Treasurer
Robert B. Young, Asst. Treasurer
Sharon Taskey, Asst. Secretary
Sheila Cooke-Kayser
Leonel Espinal
Jonathan Gilbert
Sheila Moulton-Kelly
Eileen Russell
Richard Trask
John Call, Jr., At-Large
Dr. Wayne Comeau, At-Large
Thomas Leonard, Trustee Emeritus
Dr. Anthony Patton, Trustee Emeritus

DHS Staff

Cathy Gareri,
Operations Manager
Heather King,
Director of Sales & Events
Matthew Martin, MCA
Buildings and Grounds Restoration
Manager
Laura Cilley,
Development Coordinator
Robin Perry,
Event Manager
Paige Plourde,
Event Manager



The Danvers Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) corporation & a registered charity in Massachusetts. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law



In my previous newsletter I made this statement: ‘America’s social indifference to its historical heritage is disturbing.’ Your letters and email responses provided a hint of hope; many wanting to know how they could help ‘stem the tide’ for this impending ‘social indifference’ towards our historical heritage. One letter, hand-written by “Susan”, offered some advice, hope, and a warning:

Born in Danvers, one of nine children; Susan cited her happy childhood. Her family lived near Cherry Hill Farm where she and siblings jumped in the haystacks and picked fruit from the apple and cherry trees. She wrote how important it was that the ‘memory’ of her family not be forgotten. She was thankful to the Society in their efforts to ‘keep the stories alive’ and Susan warned, if we should fail in this mission, ‘we all will be lost’.

I reflected on her message; what would happen if the stories of our heritage were lost. What would happen if the ‘mirror into the past’ vanished? As an historian, I offer the following:

We often forget that there are valuable lessons to be learned from our past. If only we were able to ask the right questions about our past, maybe then and only then, would we be better prepared to live our lives with more patience and rational self-evaluation.

What we have learned from the past gives us the ability to navigate all things that are possible in the present. If we were to miss this opportunity, we will be learning from a position of weakness. We will certainly limit our potential for discovery and innovation. To miss this opportunity, we risk losing memories of the heart that bring joy and meaning in our lives. To lose this generational memory, we would lose the memory of those people who have provided the inspiration and guidance to be the best that we can be.

To lose the historical archives that reveal the seeds of our community, uncovering all aspects of our heritage and humanity then and now, need not define us. It would be irrational to forget these life-giving lessons completely when they offer so much in possibilities for a better future.

Susan was right; if we fail to ‘keep the stories alive, we all will be lost’.

We all must bear the responsibility to assure our community that this will not happen. Each of us, whether you are an elected official, town employee, teacher, business owner, member of a public organization, parent or grandparent; all of us must share a mutual responsibility to ‘keep the stories alive’.

JOIN ME!

Please email or write and ask how you can help to ‘keep the stories alive’.

Thomas M. Page, President Danvers Historical Society, dhs@danvershistory.org