

CROYDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021

This year too, was greatly effected by the Covid pandemic. Many of our neighbors, friends and family were strictened with the virus, some hospitalized, some passed away. Just when we thought things were getting better, the year ended with yet another variant that was even more contagious. The daily news from all sources was about how bad things are that day compared to the day before, causing school and work interruptions , travel plans continuing to be canceled. It's been difficult to maintain any routine because it could be changed in an instant due to an exposure of a positive covid tested individual. Facemasks are still the norm, social distancing respected.

Volunteers are so essential for all organizations, and we are fortunate to have a great group of individuals that step-up when we need them most. The annual yard sale in June was huge in volume this year, and we had a small one in September. The weather cooperated for both, aiding us in our major fundraiser to sustain our overhead expenses.



J.Dearden, K.LaCroix, L.VanDiver, J.Michel, K.Bagni, S.Gromis, J. Sansevero

Volunteers generously overlap with other organizations in town, and we all need younger ones to join in. I used to be the youngster in our group dating back to 1999, and now I'm one of the oldsters, but happily still at it.

At our **Veterans Day dinner**, held again in modified format, we prepared 'to go' meals with curbside pick-up serving many of our town veterans with a complete meal and dessert. It's no less work for our kitchen helpers, as we have to fill containers with the meals, instead of our buffet service of past. Not sure if this will be the norm now, we hope not, as I'm certain the veterans would like to be able to visit with old friends and be part of the recognition program. Without the volunteers to make these kind of events happen, we would not be able to continue offering this tribute to our veterans. It's a considerable amount of work for two days with prep and serving. Every recipient on that day thanked us which makes it all worth it.



Harry Newcomb, US Army 1952-1954, US Army Reserves 1954-1960 remains our oldest veteran, celebrated his 90th birthday this summer with a card shower and parade event driving past friends and family on Route 10 to celebrate this milestone, Covid safe. The love of a father and his sons, Harry, Philip and Raymond in the helicopter, doing his 90th, Newcomb style.



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Volunteerism at its best, Croydon church members hold annual Christmas bazaar as well as dinners and yard sales to also raise funds for their causes. Pictured left to right, Melissa Gaherty, Rita Weber, Barbara Carignan, Judy Johnson, her daughter Patty Peck, and Rita's daughter Addy Gosselin. Again, drawing on younger volunteers as the older ranks are dwindling. Please step up, it's very rewarding paying it forward.



This is how the gals actually looked while serving at the bazaar in November, keeping the public exposures at a minimum during these Covid times.



This is a copy of an article appearing in the Argus & Spectator April 5 1878 Low Salaries. The Town of Croydon is run on a very cheap scale. From the printed Town reports we find that Ruel Durkee received for the services for the past year as first Selectman and Treasurer \$35, William W. Ryder second Selectman \$20, and Frederick Barton as third Selectman \$15. Alonzo Allen Town Clerk \$15. Hubbard Barton S.S. Committee \$25. OC Forehand Collector of Taxes \$35 making a total of \$145. The town is out of debt and has a balance of \$721 in the treasury. The sum of \$378 was received by the town for the Savings Bank tax indicating the people of that town have some \$37,800 deposited in the Saving Banks in the state. Wow, quite an article! Ruel Durkee was known as an astute finance manager. He certainly was.



We cannot mention dedicated town officials without including **Charleen Little** in this honorable list. She retired this year having given 20 years of service to Croydon as Secretary to several Boards of Selectmen,

Deputy Town Clerk/Tax collector, and finishing those years as our well respected, extremely efficient Town Clerk/Tax Collector, go to person for everything by all the other boards and organizations in Croydon. Husband, Ed, now gets to enjoy her in full retirement.

Bea Smith is our oldest Croydon resident, 102, Charleen's mother, served in many Croydon organizations, and as a checklist supervisor as well.



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The **cemetery trustees**, Steve Michel, Barb Kresse and Susan Russell, have met with Corbin Park manager, Allen Welch, over the past couple years to discuss the containment and maintenance on the Under the Mountain Cemetery and fence, or lack there-of more specifically. This year, a chain link fence, with double entrance gates to allow for mowers and equipment as needed for future maintenance was installed, and removal of the large overstory and dead trees was done and clearing with their excavator around the cemetery by the park crew. This was a great accomplishment and good communication by the trustees and the park management.



2016 2021

Our own **Liberty Elm tree**, planted on the museum lawn got infected with something, and may not come back. This was planted the spring before the 250th celebration, 2016, with a dedication ceremony assisted by the school kids. This was a 'disease resistant' tree, was doing absolutely great, until this summer. Haven't seen the report yet on what afflicted it. Looks like bugs and a mossy growth.



That wasn't the only crazy thing we experienced this year, how about the **mushrooms!** I took a walk around my yard perimeter one afternoon, and I'm sharing pictures here of just some of them, I'm sure many of you saw similar ones. So was it because of the rains, hot weather, global warming?



So many beautiful things in our yards, including a good year for monarch butterflies, bluebirds, beautiful flowers



and did the grass ever grow!

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The Croydon Fire Department continues making building upgrades and it's looking mighty fine. At the open house in the fall, townspeople were able to tour the building and receive free house number signs, made for a clearly marked emergency locator and continue to be available through the department. Stop in on a Fridays, 8 am to 4, if you haven't already had one made for your home.

The new office addition includes a meeting area, the old office in the station is now locker storage. The hall has been renovated with top to bottom paint, lighting, flooring, doors, wainscot, even a gas fireplace for ambient effect for rental events. The piano from us now has proper placement in the corner.



Office and meeting room addition, old office area now equipment lockers/storage



New prominent rental hall features

2021 crew members of Croydon Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department



EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE



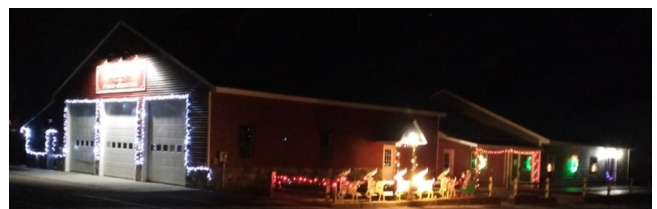
Looks like the restored weathervane is taking a ride upon that DHART helicopter.



Great aerial view of the CFD showing the ballfield across from it, a prior CFD contribution to the townspeople.

The new shed, for public water jug filling, will be complete soon, as the outdoor well stopped and so many people rely on this drinking water source. A new paved parking lot and landscape features make the CFD look pretty impressive.

Chief Jason Rook, has built up an excellent fire crew with members totaling 20, including 4 women, 4 certified EMT personnel lead by Capt. Amber Coriveau. Deputy Chief Zack White, Capt. Harry Greene and Lt. Shawn Douglas complete the highly qualified team responding this year to 100 various calls. We know so little of what they do, but are so lucky to have them.



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The Croydon Historical Society building, the big yellow Federal style in the middle of East Village was home and office of Samuel Morse, lawyer and judge, holding court here in the early 1800's. Since the Town of Croydon bought it in 2006 to be used as our museum, we have furnished it with period furniture and artifacts.

We continually receive donations in goods and funds that have come from several sources. This is an ongoing process, and huge task to record and store all that comes. We are so thankful this helps with our mission of preserving the history of this beautiful little town. We have had many present and past Croydon residents donate pictures of past family members, old ledger books of sales, farm tools, old kitchen utensils and anything related to

Croydon. Donated items this year came from Roxanne (Dodge)Turner, Carol (Gross)Marsh, Cody (MacWilliams)Collins-Kangas, Muriel (Chamberlain)Brock, Marion (McAdams)Robinson, Jane Dearden, Shirley (Linton)Kowalczyk and Bap Kresse.



Broad axe and Sibley scythe blades



Adze head—for hewing beams



This painting is by Nataline Reed Barton of the Durkee home, and picture of her that we have. She is on the right. If you have any information or photos from the past, please keep us in mind to preserve them. We'll make copies and return the originals if you'd like. We thank all who have donated.



The youngest regular volunteer we have and have come to count so much on is **Anastasia Peschke**. She started July 30th, 2019 at 15 years old working weekly with our archivist, Barb Kresse, Tuesdays from noon to 2 PM. Now nearly 3 years, she has volunteered 284 hours, is working a real part-time job, does flight lessons, homeschools and takes college classes at River Valley Community College. She also does our snow shoveling and leaf raking, and many other tasks we ask her to do. Thank you, Anastasia.

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Memory walkway bricks...Orders are still being taken, you can get cards to place orders at the town office, Coniston store or download from our website, croydonhistoricalsociety.org. We plan to continue the length as far as possible as years go on. **So, it's not too late to order as we continue to sell bricks.** Bricks ordered are sitting in the barn to be laid, I'm in hope, spring comes early and help shows up, and this wonderful tribute to loved ones will be forever a destination of families, and a reason to come to the museum as well. You can also order memory bricks from us to use at your own home, as I have one of my parents that lived in Croydon Flat for 90 years. It makes me reminisce when I look at it :)



Walkway Bricks.

This year could be a year to pursue the **Community Day at Camp Coniston**. If a committee is willing to coordinate with the camp, we would help you make connections. Can't be sure if the camp will be allowing it, due to the pandemic conditions again this year. Worth a discussion.

The perambulation (to walk about and inspect) **of the town boundaries happens every 7 years.** This marker on Croydon Mtn. marks the point at which Croydon, Grantham and Plainfield meet. Roughly on the backside of the mountain, somewhat along the ridgeline, though can't see much of Plainfield because of the density of the trees. To get to this marker, the group walked along the Grantham ridgeline, then up to top of Croydon Mtn, for a magnificent panoramic view. Quite a hike!



I close this year's letter again with an appeal for more volunteers. If you would like to come join us, stop in on a Tuesday afternoon, or send an email through our website, croydonhistoricalsociety.org. I hope you find our report interesting in these challenging times.

Regards,

Jane Dearden, CHS, Pres.

Wander Often, Wonder Always.

I saw this painted on a sign at a gift shop and thought sharing it here was an optimistic look at a better year to come for all of us.

On the Cover: CROYDON IS BEAUTIFUL, THE MOUNTAIN IS ALWAYS WORTH A LOOK, ROCKY BOUND IS A GEM

THE BOUNDARY MARKER ATOP CROYDON MOUNTAIN, MARKS THE POINT AT WHICH CROYDON, GRANTHAM AND PLAINFIELD MEET.