



THE WYMAN JOURNAL

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President's Message:



Thanks for all your support. The year has flown by with lots of activity: cleanup, school tours, visitors from near and far, outreach to other organizations, grant applications and Ginny's tireless genealogy work. And we have just received a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation!

The Francis Wyman Elementary school 3rd graders enjoyed tours provided by Board members Rebecca Lofgren (in costume as Pamela Wyman circa late 1700's) and Education Coordinator Pam Meppelink last Fall. This summer we held open houses on the second Saturday of each month except August when we participate in Burlington days on the Common. The Burlington Historical Society featured our house on their Fourth of July float and our *Pamela Wyman* rode along. During the June open house, Kathy Hirbour from the American Textile History Museum provided a great demonstration of how flax is transformed from the plant to linen and other cloth. She will join us at our annual meeting on Saturday September 21. We will also have an expert demonstrate and provide lessons spinning on our very own 1700's spinning wheel and weaving on a 100 year old loom.

Work on the house has been limited to maintenance activities. We created a Preliminary Programming Study during the winter which provides an outline of how we will use the house and eventually finish the rooms. We are exploring alternatives to accomplish additional preservation work while minimizing the call for funds. We have applied for and just received a \$5,000 matching National Trust Grant to continue a Feasibility Study - Preservation Plan for developing a new Preservation Skills School at Francis Wyman House. This will essentially provide funding for our architect to work with various organizations and schools to identify the process and bite sized projects that could be accomplished in a more affordable way. We will have to match this \$5,000 from within our limited funds.

Rebecca initiated and completed a Grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to begin the process of cataloging and properly storing the FWA collection. We have a wealth of information and artifacts from Rev. Ralph Tucker and others. The intent is to create an inventory, catalog the items, determine appropriate storage and then manage the "inventory". We expect to hear results of this request sometime in the Fall.

Financially, we have about \$18,000 in the bank, but with annual expenses of about \$5,000, another \$5,000 dedicated to the well sweep project, and the new \$5,000 we must match for the grant award, not including any unexpected expense, we can certainly use your help. Our wish list includes projects that would cost about \$500,000, so keep those cards, checks and Pay Pal donations coming. Keep us in mind for your will, memorial donation, real estate, trust or other estate planning tools to ensure our future preservation and management of the property and the association.

We have been making some progress cleaning up the yard. I hope to have the old barn foundation cleared of brush by the annual meeting. I also have to arrange for some pest control and gathering prices to replace the fire alarm reporting system which the Town will no longer provide.

We can always use more help on the board and are especially interested in people in the Burlington area. We can also use some IT help with the website, internet/e-mail/and potential for social media communication.

Hope to see you on Saturday September 21 at the annual meeting.

Jon Wyman

The Francis Wyman House Museum Study Underway

To develop the house as a visitors' museum by creating a room by room experience, is one of the goals of a study drafted by historic preservation architect John Goff of Salem MA. Each room would have a framework of narratives and exhibit sequences that tell the story of Francis Wyman and successive generations at the house from interaction with Native American life, leather tanning in early Woburn, managing the Wyman farm, to the Colonial Revival period when the house was first saved and acquired by the newly formed Francis Wyman Association in 1899. The study also develops a list of remaining museum development needs, repair and furnishing recommendations.

NEH Grant to Protect Our Historic Documents

Our historic documents are not being protected as they should. Many are scattered among several storage sites, in basements and attics. Some are located in the Burlington Historic Museum. Most lack climate control which means the documents are starting to deteriorate or are in danger of doing so. The Francis Wyman Association has applied for a \$6000 grant called the National Endowment for Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions. This grant would help the Francis Wyman Association pay for an overall assessment of the Francis Wyman Association collection of historic artifacts by a professional preservation consultant from the Northeast Documentation Conservation Center. The grant would fund the purchase of basic, but necessary, preservation and storage supplies to help protect the collection. The grant would pay for one board member to take the instructor led Preservation 101: Preservation for Paper and Media Collections, offered by the Northeast Documentation Conservation Center. 'As of this date, we do not know if we have been chosen to receive these funds.' states FWA Director Rebecca Lofgren who submitted the grant application.

Francis Wyman House Will Become "More Than Your Usual Historic House Museum!"

The Francis Wyman Association has been awarded a \$5,000 National Trust for Historic Preservation Matching Grant for the development of a Feasibility Study and Preservation Plan presenting the idea of a new "preservation skills school" at the Francis Wyman Homestead! The school will offer classes on timber framing and colonial carpentry, iron working, clay bricks and pottery, as well as colonial lifestyles and period industry. It will introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques while gaining technical experience. The 17th century Francis Wyman house has rich combinations of colonial historic details and has undergone period appropriate restorations guided by Mass Historic Commission. The house showcases state-of-the-art techniques in timber frame repair, joinery, plaster repair, wrought iron and buttermilk paint finishes. Besides its Colonial English history, it combines features associated with Native Americans and African American history. It is well suited to become a 'living laboratory teaching museum' for preservation education. The consultant for the FSPP is architect John Goff, Historic Preservation and Design, Salem MA. Part of the plan is to develop new preservation partnerships with such organizations as Old Sturbridge Village, Pioneer Village, North Bennett Street School and Boston University, Boy Scouts, and others.

We Need Your Help: These grants require new funds.

NEH Grant \$6,000....our contribution is \$2000.

NTHP Grant "Skills School" \$10,000....our match is \$5,000.

In total, \$7,000 needs to be raised.

Please consider a tax deductible gift to the Francis Wyman Association

Mail to: Virginia Mucciacco, 14 Thompson St., Dedham MA 02026-4911

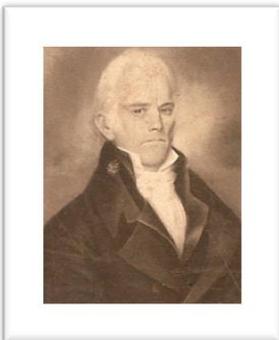
Or visit WymanAssociation.org to use *PayPal*

A series of **Open Houses** was held from May to September at the FW House hosted by Education Coordinator Pam Meppelink and Rebecca Lofgren. The highlight of the series this summer was a **flax lecture and demonstration** held on June 8. **Kathy Hibour of the American Textile History Museum, Lowell MA** showed visitors how the pretty plant with the blue flower is turned into linen cloth. It is a complicated and messy process that takes months to accomplish. This is why in colonial times linens would get passed down to successive generations. Can you imagine being happy about getting your grandparents bed sheets? The ATHM tells America's history through textiles and documents wool, cotton, flax and silk industries in New England and is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institute.

Wymans and Flax The Wymans grew hemp and flax. In his will Francis left one third of his hemp and flax to his wife. According to FWA historian Caroline Miller, although Francis' will survived, his inventory did not, so we have no way of knowing if there was a loom. Francis' son Joseph was a tailor, son Nathaniel, a weaver. 1717 inventory included two woolen wheels... two linen wheels... 15 sheep. Son Samuel was a weaver. Inventory included *spinning wheels... weaver's loomb... hemp and flax*. Francis' brother John Wyman's 1684 inventory survived and in it: *'Serge and homemade cloath... cotton and woolen yarne... hare cloath...flax'*. Tanners in those days had a side business in hair cloth from all the animal remains. Grandson William who lived in the house owned...*old loome...15 sheep*. Francis' great, great grandson Abel who lived in the house (and from whose era FWA is portraying) was taxed in 1783 on 8 sheep. His daughters were expert needlewomen, his son a tailor. No doubt they spun and wove. Perhaps one of the rooms in the Francis Wyman House was a loom room.

A Shaker Spinning Wheel

Could FWA possibly have a spinning wheel made by the Shakers? The spinning wheel was donated to the Association by Katie Pattie of Ames IA who found it in a house she purchased in Maine.



In acquiring the wheel, historian Caroline Miller researched Wyman archives and came to the conclusion it would fit nicely with Wyman history. The wheel appears to be of the large woolen type and dated around 1890. Preservation architect John Goff of Salem MA states that it has all the unique characteristics of a Shaker spinning wheel.



Ms. Pattie's cousin by marriage was a Wyman. She donated a number of artifacts to FWA. The Association purchased the portrait of Abel Wyman 1747-1823 from her cousin's estate.

Francis Wyman Annual Open Meeting *Please Come! Hear News of Our Grant Projects!*



	10am	Tours of Francis Wyman Homestead.
	11am	Meeting
	12 noon	Family Photo
	12:15	Lunch (Bring your own lunch and chair. Beverage & dessert provided.)
	1pm	Flax Demonstration *
Saturday	2pm	Spinning and Weaving Demonstration and Training*
September 21		*with Kathy Hibour and Barbara Provest, ATHM.

Side trips to grave of Francis Wyman or Amos Wyman Rock will be made available.

4th of July Float Sponsored by the Burlington Historical Society Featuring



the Francis Wyman Homestead wins Third Place in Town Parade! The house built by Fred Keene will be on display at the Francis Wyman Homestead for the annual meeting. In period costume are BHS Mike Tredeau and FWA Director Rebecca Lofgren representing the Wyman descendant 'Pamela Wyman'.



Hello from Washington State! Jonell here!

It's been nearly a year since John and I moved from Belmont MA to our former home of many years in Longview WA. In December I drove our car from Boston to Longview and stopped along the way to visit John Wyman in Dublin Ohio, the original webmaster for the Wyman Association. My evening stay stretched to three nights as I worked with John on all things Wyman, spent hours getting to know his wife Hahn and their two year old grandson Adam. It's a visit I will always remember and much appreciate. I have much respect for his www.wyman.org website and encourage you to investigate his genealogical database and support his work with a donation.



It was very sad for me to leave Massachusetts. I miss being so close to the Wyman homestead, being able to work at the site and show the house to so many descendants. My daughter Susanne married Rob in April and is living in Boston. She has my Wyman house key. I hope you consider me your Wyman family connection 'out west'. Two of our children live in New Zealand so there are Wyman descendants everywhere.

I have been doing more research into early Wyman settlers in the Pacific Northwest. Turns out an Edwin Wyman lived in Woodland WA about the time RA Long of Kansas City was building his planned city 'Longview'. There are early and important families in Oregon, wine makers in California, miners in Wyoming, and on and on.

Discovering, preserving and sharing your family Wyman stories is very rewarding to me. If you are not a member of FWA or have just not paid your dues in a while, today is a good day to send those donations in. We have a wonderful homestead to take care of no matter how far from the house we live. I would love to hear from you. Best regards to each of you reading. Jonell. Jonell Day Kenagy: jonell@wymanassociation.org or kenagy@mindspring.com 503-577-5960

Please join or renew your annual membership to the Francis Wyman Association.

Your contributions are very important to us. All gifts are fully tax deductible.