



THE WYMAN JOURNAL

Issue 35 A Publication of the Francis Wyman Association 2020

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Dear Family and Friends,

Pandemic 2020! The world has been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Schools are closed and the economy shut down. FWA followed suit with no monthly open houses and no other tours. We held our board meeting by a zoom video conference call for the first time.



FWA Board meeting by Zoom video conference call.

During the meeting we discussed projects and determined to pursue four projects immediately: Replace the cedar shingle roof, repair the shed, construct a well sweep, and restore the association room. I am in contact with a contractor and an architect to determine the approach and pricing.

Massachusetts is currently in phase 3 of the pandemic recovery which allows outdoor gatherings up to 50 people outside or 25 inside. Face masks are required when 6' social distancing is not possible. We decided to hold a modified annual meeting on Saturday, October 3rd. Due to travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, we are only expecting people from the New England States and lessor numbers than in recent years. It will be a working party, so if you are within a drive away, bring

your yard tools and work gloves to help us make some improvements to the property.



Jim from the Minuteman Sportsman's Club removing the old wood piles to a dumpster for removal.

We started some yard improvement activities already and have removed the wood piles, relocated the outhouse, cleaned up along the street and started a garden plot out behind the shed. The Minuteman Sportsman's Club provided the support to brush hog an area for the garden. We'll continue these projects during the annual meeting in October, clearing brush, raking the yard, and additional clearing on the stone wall by the street. The objective by the street is to make the house more visible and appealing from the street.



Jonell Kenagy, Cathy Whooten and Jon Wyman after placing a tarp over the garden plot on a hot August day.

2019 Annual Meeting by Pam Meppelink



Pam's Introduction at the Lowell National Park

A Dream Comes True. . . . Ever since I started working in Lowell as a museum educator and learned that the Wyman's played a role in the founding of America's first industrial city, I wanted to bring the Francis Wyman Association to this unique town for a tour. On September 21th, 2019 it happened! 38 Wyman's met at National Park Tourist Center for a movie about the history of Lowell followed by a Trolley Tour of this canal city.



Trolley Ride to the Boott Mill Museum



Wymans touring the loom room

In the afternoon we had a quick business meeting and a presentation about the Captain

William Wyman family. This banker and businessman found himself with embezzlement charges but thanks to Daniel Webster, the Captain was acquitted on appeal. Once charges were dismissed, his disgraced family returned from Baltimore.



Pam describing the Lowell Mills system

The returning family included his, soon to be famous, granddaughter - Sarah Wyman Whitman. Influenced by the 28,000 mill girls working in Lowell, Sarah was determined to not live a vacuous wealthy woman's life. She was one of the first women to own her own art studio and stained glass company, Lily Glass Works. She started several organizations that have survived today: the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University and the Society of Arts and Crafts at the Seaport in Boston. She was also known in the publishing world for her thoughtful book cover designs and I recently learned she designed several graves for friends and family, mostly at the Mt. Auburn Cemetery.



Gravestone of Sarah Adams Wyman (Sarah's aunt who died in 1841 at the age of sixteen.)

(<https://mountauburn.org/mount-auburn-monuments-designed-by-sarah-wyman-whitman/>)



Wyman entourage outside the Boott Cotton Mill Museum

The day ended with a tour of the Boott Cotton Mill Museum and Boarding House Exhibit. For me, a history lover and a Wyman descendant, it was a dream come true. – Pam Meppelink

Benjamin Farnsworth Wyman Desk

We are very fortunate to be receiving a donation of our founder's family desk. Benjamin Farnsworth Wyman, 1839 to 1927, organized a meeting of Wyman's in 1899.



Benjamin Farnsworth Wyman

They witnessed the decrepit condition of the house and determined to save it for future generations. As a commercial traveler for the Leatheroid Mfg. Co. of Kennebunk, Maine, he was able to contact Wymans across the country and generate interest and support to buy the house and form the FWA, incorporated in 1902.

Benjamin's great-great granddaughter, Susan Howison had been entrusted with the desk and is now donating it to the FWA and we will place it in the Association Room (1st floor SE corner) as a tribute to the founder of the FWA.



Susan Howison with Benjamin's Desk in July 2020

Thanks for your Generous Donations!

\$500 & Over

New Hampshire Foundation
Kenneth R. Wyman
Timothy R. Wyman
Wyman Youth Trust

\$200-\$500

Deborah Wyman Barry
Gregory Booth
Beth Lynch Dwyer
Kenneth Goodsmith
George Wyman Morriss
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Up to \$100

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Ginny Mucciaccio, Vida Poole, Rosemary Smith, Christian Wyman, and Jonell Kenagy processing the 2019 Wyman Journal last August at Ginny's place in Dedham

Please keep us in mind for your annual charitable contributions and keep us in mind for your will.

**Please send donations to Ginny Mucciaccio
14 Thompson St. Dedham, MA 02026-4911
or via the Paypal link on
www.wymanassociation.org**



Annual Wyman Family photo at the Wyman Exchange in Lowell, MA

The Wyman Shoppe

Wyman Family Crest Lapel Pin \$20

Wyman History Book or CD \$15



Wyman Association Ornament \$25

Francis Wyman Kitchen Towel \$10

House Sketch or Coat of Arms \$10



Francis Wyman House Tile (6" x 6") \$25

Small House Tile \$10

Francis Wyman Coloring Book \$12

Francis Wyman Pot Holders \$4 or 2/\$7

House Shelf Decoration (Cat's Meow) \$25

Francis Wyman Association

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Membership and Donation Form

Here is my tax-deductible contribution to help preserve the Francis Wyman homestead and to meet yearly operating expenses of the Association.

Donation Categories:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20 Settler | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 Minuteman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35 Colonial | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 200 Patriot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Pioneer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250+ Washington |

Visit WymanAssociation.org to use PayPal for contributions or purchases from the FWA Shoppe (Due to international check fees, please Use PayPal from outside the US)

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip Code _____

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Let us know if your company or organization provides a matching gift.

_____ (company, foundation, United Way, etc.).

Please make check payable to: **Francis Wyman Association.**

Mail to: **Treasurer Mrs. Virginia Mucciaccio, 14 Thompson St., Dedham MA 02026-4911**

Receive the newsletter *The Wyman Journal*, updates of the restoration projects, tours and events.



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SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting and Reunion - **Saturday, October 3rd** at the Francis Wyman House

This will be a working meeting. Dress for yard work and other chores to enhance the property. Bring your favorite tools: work gloves, leaf rake, garden rake, pruning shears, loppers, line trimmers... Remember your face masks!

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Gather at the House and begin chores

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch: Pick up your own and bring it to the house.

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Chores

Please RSVP on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FrancisWymanAssoc>
or to Jon at Jonwy@comcast.net Hope to see you there!

Francis Wyman Association
14 Thompson Street
Dedham, MA 02026-4911

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED