

2003 Annual Report - Dalton, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Mary Ellen Shea, Chair

The Dalton Historical Commission continues to collect and preserve Dalton history. We have had two historical books repaired and rebound; also twelve current town reports have been bound into two books thanks to the expertise of Vita Mott of Great Barrington.

Members helped the Dalton High School alumni homecoming committee culminating with a display of composites of all the classes from 1926 to 1961; the pictures were placed in the Dalton Library and in the hallway of the town hall.

The commission visited the North Adams new museum located in the Heritage Park area. Featuring historical exhibits from the Hoosac Tunnel to the town's Chinese history, it is a must-see for all.

The Crane European Purple Beech Tree has been researched and the material sent in to the National Register of Historic Trees. The Commission will know if this Dalton Tree will be placed on the Historic Tree Register in 2006. A very big "thank you" to all the commission members who have helped with this project.

Mr. Charles Flint of Lenox was here in October to hold an antique fair and again in November for a lecture on the Berkshire County Glass Works. Mr. Flint, as usual, was a delightful host.

Some of our members are on the Designer Selection Committee working to select a location and plan for the Dalton Library/Senior Center and of course the Commission's own museum.

We have a new board member, Louisa Horth; a big welcome to Louisa who is compiling the historical inventory on our computer.

Members are working on a book of Dalton that will be published by the Arcadia Publishing Company.

This was the Commission first time to participate in the Dalton Christmas Walk. With the Dalton Beautification Committee as co-host we had a display at the Dalton Garage of both old pictures and newer photos taken this year of many Dalton landscapes.

We were saddened by the loss of Mrs. Dorothy Ford. Her passing left a void on the Commission as Mrs. Ford was so knowledgeable on the history of Dalton.

Each year the Commission has a Christmas party and this year was no exception. It was a very nice way to end a very busy year for us.

Again, thank you to all the townspeople who have donated articles for the museum. To just mention a few; we have added some sport plaques, military uniforms, a ledger and a scrapbook to our collection.

New membership is always most welcomed to the Commission and we hope to see many new faces as this year continues. If there is someone who would like to be a part of the Historical group, just contact any member.