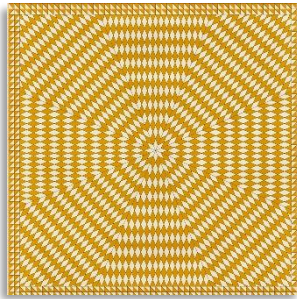


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The  
Scituate  
Historical  
Society

# The Newsletter

January, 2024



Wondering what we've been up to? Great question.

*Let's bring you up to speed!*

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In 2023 and the months before, more than **2400 attendees** participated in a myriad of Society special events, open houses, tours and programs. That's a gratifying achievement!

As we wave goodbye to 2023, we wanted to rewind and recap some of its highlights.

So glad you are here!

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### Glades Tour Extravaganza: A Fall Fête to Remember

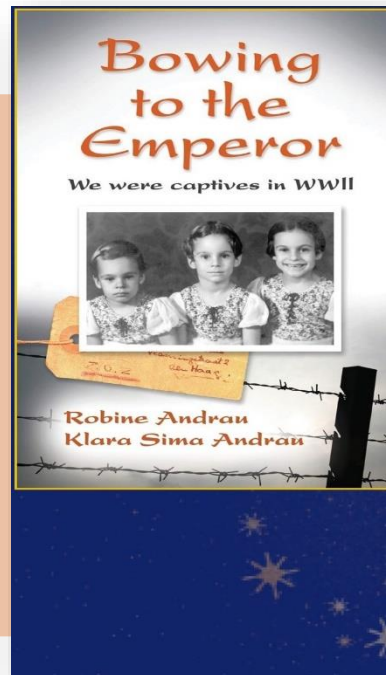
In October, 2022, the Glades Tour unfolded with a picturesque autumn backdrop, attracting a record-breaking 235 visitors!

Kudos to the indefatigable efforts of Bob Thorndike and to our sponsors – Frank Snow, Richardson-Gaffey Funeral Home, Northern Oak Landscape, and Anderson Fuel.

Thanks to their generosity, Scituate's history shone bright!

### 2023 Annual Dinner Meeting: "Bowling to the Emperor"

February 11th marked a journey back in time as Robine Andrau led us through a captivating exploration of her family's experiences in WWII during the Annual Dinner Meeting. A "Full Turkey Dinner" brought together 110 attendees for an evening of absorbing recent history.





### **Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at GAR Hall**

On May 6th, GAR Hall echoed with gratitude during the Volunteer Thank You Brunch, honoring the dedication of our current and former volunteers.

Their commitment sustains the heartbeat of all of our educational and historical endeavors.

You all are the best!

### **Open Houses: A Gateway to Our Past**

The doors to our historic properties swung open on May 21, July 9, August 5 & 6, and September 17, inviting the community to delve into, climb up, and pore over our heritage.

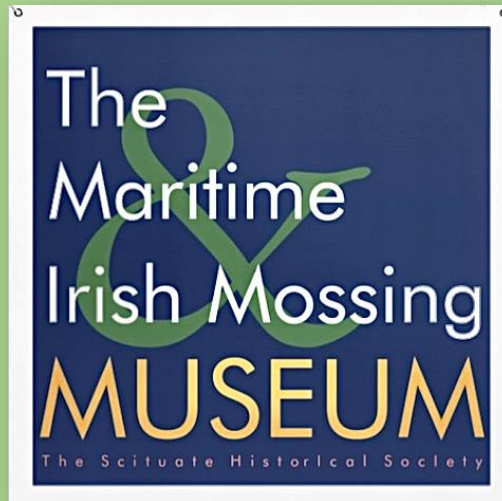
So much FUN!



## **The Maritime & Irish Mossing Museum Welcomes Old and New Friends**

May 24th witnessed a reacquainting of the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Society's Board of Trustees as they explored The Maritime & Irish Mossing Museum together.

New events, including "Living in the Lighthouse and Bates House" and "The Etrusco," coupled with new street signage, renewed exhibits, a truly unique model display in the Boathouse, and the allure of new rocking chairs (in honor of Dave Ball's years of leadership) on the deck, drew in a wave of visitors throughout the year.



### **Grist Mill Renaissance: Breathing Life into History**

Efforts to revive the Grist Mill saw significant strides. Thanks to millwright Andy Shrake's craftsmanship, a new cap for the tub turbine, repaired sluiceway, treated roof shingles, and a rejuvenated walkway have breathed new life into this historical gem.

### **Towering Success in Society Events and Programs**

From sold-out Lawson Tower Full Moon Tours with the South Shore Astronomical Society and Lenae Badger's free Tower bell concerts to captivating GAR programming including Cape Verdean Experiences, the Blizzard of '78, and Explore Stellwagen, we carved out moments that will linger in our memories.



### **Patrick O'Keefe Irish Manuscript: Unraveling the Past**

Irish scholar Brian Frykenberg unveiled his analysis of the Patrick O'Keefe Irish Manuscript in a well-attended public program, graciously sponsored by the Eire Society of Boston. The event, held on November 4th at GAR Hall, also featured a mesmerizing performance by Declan Houten, connecting us deeply with our Irish heritage.



### **Website Milestones: Connecting the Past with the Present**

Our online presence continues to flourish, with an increasing number of requests for family research and local inquiries. The Archivist has been diligently curating Collections Highlights and expanding research information, making history accessible with just a click.



## Cudworth House Re- Interpretation

With the generous support of Community Preservation Act funds, Cudworth House is being transformed into a vibrant museum of decorative arts. Extensive repairs to the foundation and structure, enhanced climate control, new UV storm windows, fresh paint, and thoughtful lighting have revitalized the interiors. Approaching the property, you'll find new walkways, granite steps, and benches have been added to the landscape.

Our goal is to showcase significant treasures from the Society's Archives Collections - furniture, fine art, crafts, textiles, and artifacts – most being displayed for the first time. Our focus is on the overall aesthetic of the spaces, with the placement of objects, art, texture and color breathing new life into the historic rooms.



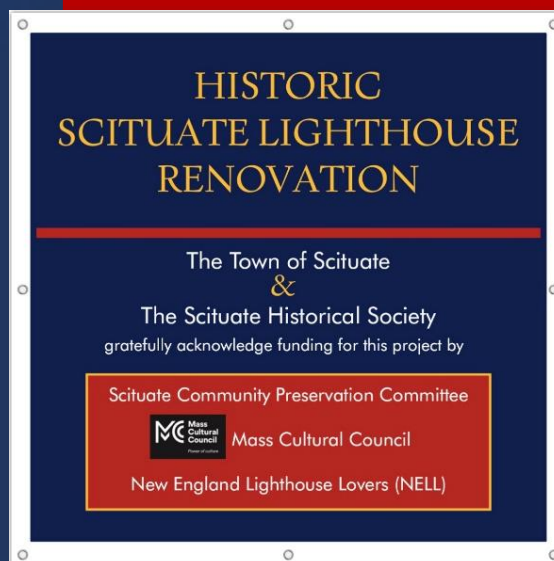
## Scituate Lighthouse Restoration

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the newly constructed lantern room arrived back in Scituate ready for the addition of its copper cladding. Lighthouse visitors witnessed the expert work of coppersmith Bob DiTullio as he meticulously pieced and applied the copper sheeting. At the same time workers were preparing the top of the lighthouse tower to receive the lantern room. On November 15, a crane hoisted the lantern into place. Two days later the copper ball was secured on top of the lantern room.

The bulk of the lighthouse restoration was completed in 2023, with the exception of finishing the grouting process and applying a fresh coat of paint to the tower masonry. Due to our recent bout of winter weather, with below freezing temperatures, it was decided to complete the final steps of restoration in the spring.

This project includes not only a complete rebuilding of the lantern room walls including new iron structural frame, weather-resistant window frames and mahogany storm windows, a rebuilt catwalk and flooring, interior woodwork, finishes, electrical components and an automatically controlled interior ventilation system. New brick and masonry restoration, a new interior wood stairway and a finish coat of paint will complete the project.

The Lighthouse Restoration has been a great joint venture of the Town of Scituate and the Scituate Historical Society. We can't wait to celebrate the restored lighthouse with town residents, Society members, project participants and lighthouse lovers in the spring!



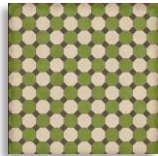


### Gratitude to Our Pillars of Support: Funding Acknowledgments

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**, the **Scituate Cultural Council**, the **South Shore Playhouse Association**, the citizens of **Scituate for Community Preservation Act** funds and the **New England Lighthouse Lovers** for their unwavering support. Their contributions have been instrumental in preserving and promoting our mission.

A special thank you to **Marshall Litchfield** for his recent donation of a beautiful new flagpole and a new flag now waving proudly at the GAR Hall.

As we step into 2024, The Scituate Historical Society looks forward to another year of exploring the stories that make our community so unique.



Here's to history, heritage, and boundless possibilities for the future. *See you soon!*

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