

The
Scituate
Historical
Society

The Newsletter

October, 2024



Our summer days have settled down... but not us!

Welcome to the crisp embrace of Fall.

It was such a remarkable Summer, filled with
so many memorable events.

As we store our beach chairs and put out the
pumpkins and mums, let's glance back at some
summer highlights and look forward to new events
planned for the coming months.

So glad you are here!

SCITUATE LIGHT SHINES AGAIN!!

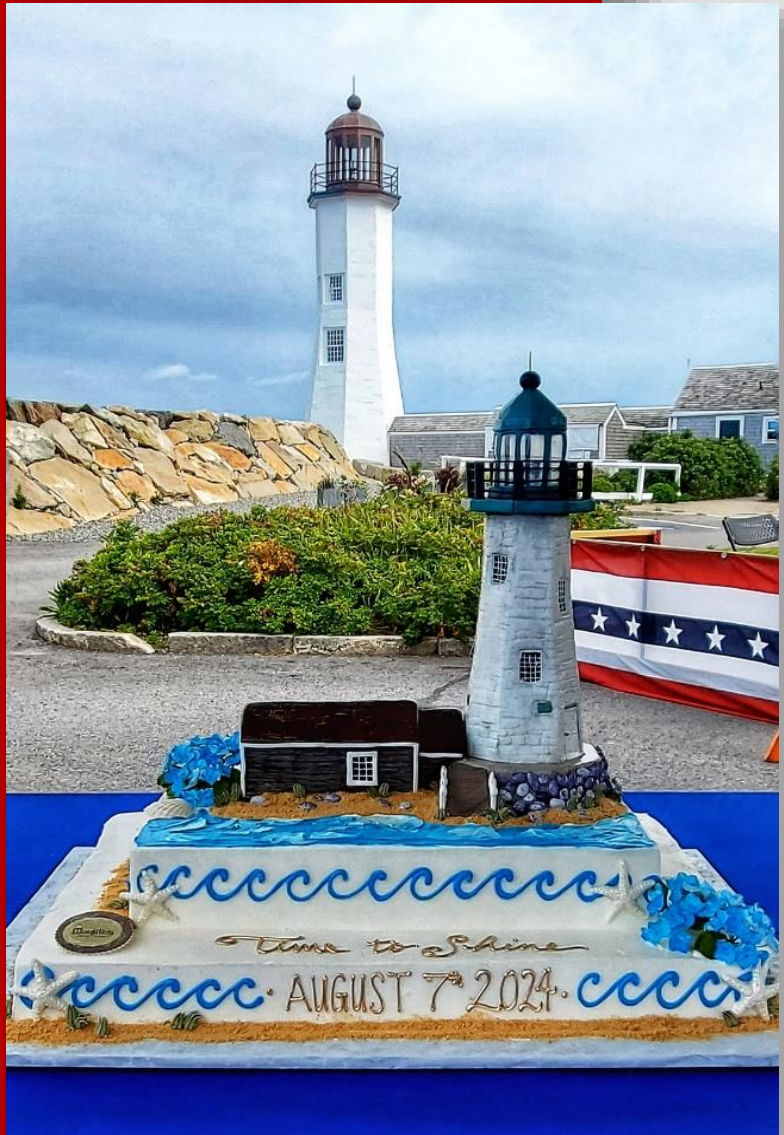
On a gorgeous August 7th evening – National Lighthouse Day – the Scituate Historical Society and the Town of Scituate hosted a tremendous event celebrating the relighting of our beloved Scituate Light! The celebration drew an enthusiastic crowd of over 500 lighthouse lovers.

Under the giant American flag with the restored lighthouse glistening in the sun, attendees were welcomed by the Society's Acting President Bob Chessia. Bob was accompanied by music performed by our own Scituate High School's finest. Remarks from state and town officials followed with a fitting keynote address by Lightkeeper Bob Gallagher. A rifle salute by the Hingham Militia – all decked out in their colonial uniforms – added to the festive evening. Even "Rebecca and Abigail Bates" were seen handing out posters, commemorating the event!

Revelers enjoyed a spectacularly decorated cake and cupcakes donated by Montilio's Baking Company.

Special thanks to Sheila and Jack Manning, Cathy and Tom Hall, Gigi and Frank Mirarchi, Frank Snow, and Martha and Dick Twigg for their donations to help underwrite the cost of the celebration.

It was quite a night!



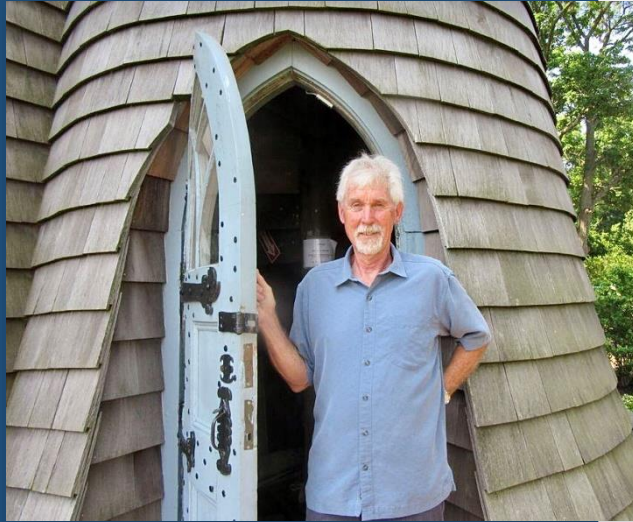
Open Houses: A Gateway to Our Past

Over the course of the year, our doors swung open on May 19, July 14, August 3 & 4, and September 15, inviting the community to “come on down” and get a closer look at our historic sites.

We were excited to include our newly restored Scituate Lighthouse at our final Open House of the Season on September 15.

Be sure and watch for our **2025 Open House** dates which will be posted on our website in early January.

Mark your calendar!



Duncan Bates Todd: Book Signing

Speaking of our September 15th Open House, something pretty fantastic was going on at the Bates House!

Duncan Bates Todd was there, greeting new visitors and old friends alike. A descendant of the first Scituate Lightkeeper Simeon Bates, Duncan was signing her new memoir “Follow Your Own Path or Make One” – featuring her 100 YEAR OLD PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE!

A remarkable, wonderful woman...

An Historic Preservation Plan for Scituate!

At the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Scituate voters supported a Community Preservation Project proposed by the Scituate Historical Commission to develop a town-wide Historic Preservation Plan. To that end, the Town has hired Heritage Strategies LLC – a consulting firm specializing in planning for historic communities – to draft the preservation plan.

At the Commission's request, over the summer and into the fall, the Historical Society has been serving as a resource to Heritage Strategies - conducting tours of the town's historic properties, participating in group and individual interviews, and providing archival data as this critical plan is being compiled.



The Society's Summer Programming

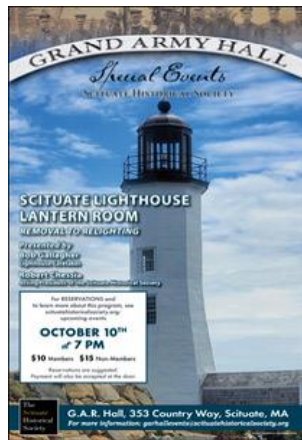
Lawson Tower Full Moon Tours with the South Shore Astronomical Society continued to be sold out way in advance!

Throughout the summer, the **Tower bell concerts by Lenae Badger** charmed our town.

And a diverse **GAR Hall Lecture Series** featured "Plymouth County First Lady Penelope Winslow", "Gravestones of Early New England" and "New England Stone Walls".

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Click on each poster for details & to link to the Society's website for reservations.

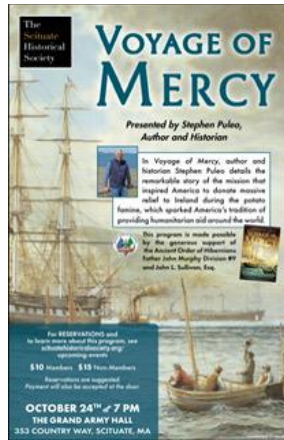


October 10, 2024

GAR Hall

The Rebuilding of Scituate Light, 2024.

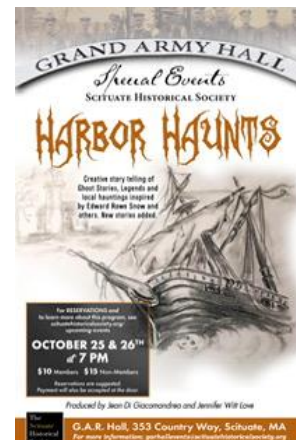
Not to be missed.



October 24, 2024

GAR Hall

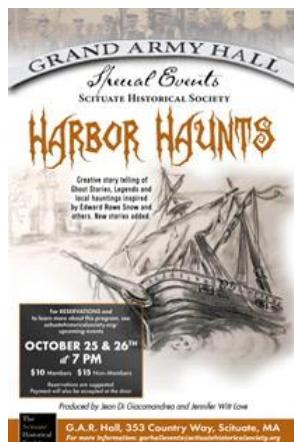
Renowned author Stephen Puleo will speak on America's massive relief mission to Ireland during the potato famine. If you haven't attended a Stephen Puleo event before, you are in for a real treat!



October 25, 2024

GAR Hall

Back by popular demand! A fun night of ghost stories, local hauntings & legends told by local actors and musicians! New stories this year!



October 26, 2024

GAR Hall

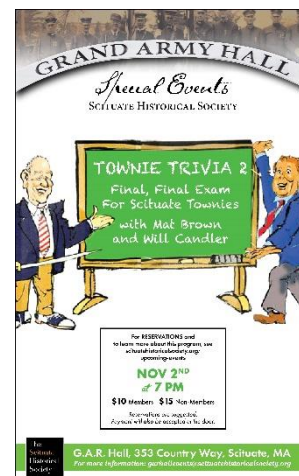
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October 19, 2024

Lawson Tower

A not so scary trip up the tower for photos, fun, & a sweet treat! Family fun!



November 2, 2024

GAR Hall

Be sure to reserve your table.



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Revolution 250

Did you know that over 500 Scituate men and boys fought in the American Revolution? 500 from our fledgling town alone. That is pretty astounding!

In April, in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Revolution, the Society hosted the first Scituate REV 250 event... a talk by Scituate historian and author Jim Glinski who shared stories of the indomitable spirit of these men and their service. Jim's most recent book is entitled [A Tale of Two Towns: Scituate and Marshfield During the American Revolution, 1763-1790.](#)

For those interested in learning more about key local figures who played a role in the American Revolution, Jim has kindly provided the biography of Scituate's Nathan Cushing, Esq. (1742 – 1812).

[Link to Nathan Cushing Biography](#)

Introducing New Volunteers

We are very lucky to welcome three new terrific volunteers. You can meet Louisa Merritt Keough and Kathy Clark at the reception desk during the Schoolhouse's open hours and Cathy Foley will be working with our archivist. So glad you are here!

We were also thrilled to have had Allen Hale, a Scituate High School graduate and now senior at Vassar University, spend his summer assisting our archivist. Allen's dedication to researching artifacts and writing exhibit labels for the new Cudworth House Museum of Decorative Arts was invaluable. Thank you, Allen!

The Maritime & Irish Mossing Museum Welcomes Old and New Friends

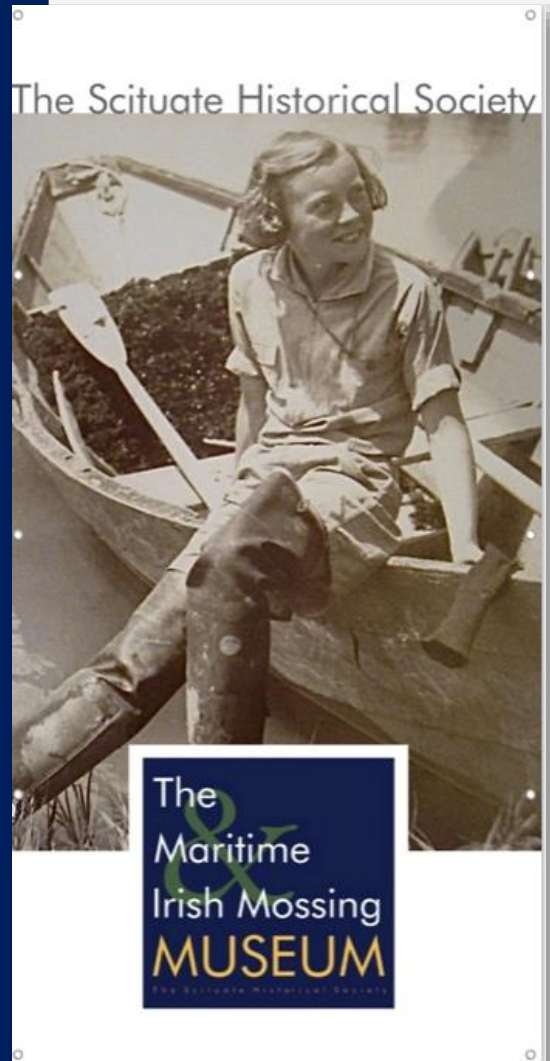
We're excited to welcome Jill West as the first Maritime & Irish Mossing Museum Administrator. A devoted museum volunteer and docent for several years, Jill has enthusiastically stepped into the new Administrator position to lead and oversee Museum operations and programs. We're lucky to have her!

We said goodbye to several of our longtime and valued volunteer docents – Dave Ball, and Judy Bent. We thank them for their dedication and expertise and wish them well as they undertake new endeavors.

How wonderful it is to have some young people join us as museum volunteers! We were lucky to have a talented Scituate High School student William Kaplan step forward to assist us. William worked with archivist Mary Porter and Jill West to create a new Docent Guide which will be a valuable tool as our new group of docents lead visitor tours. Our summer intern, Scarlett McMahon, a student at Miss Porter's School in CT, was a delightful volunteer who greeted Museum guests and assisted Jill with tasks. And, finally, Terry Barnard, who spent his youth in Humarock and now resides on First Cliff, recently joined the museum as a docent.

During Heritage Days weekend, we welcomed over 60 guests to the Museum and, in May, the Museum hosted over 50 visitors as part of the "Get to Greenbush" event.

As the Society does every Spring, we welcomed 204 third graders plus their teachers and chaperones to the Museum, Lawson Tower, and the Mann House. We loved sharing Scituate's rich history with the next generation and the students loved the tour!



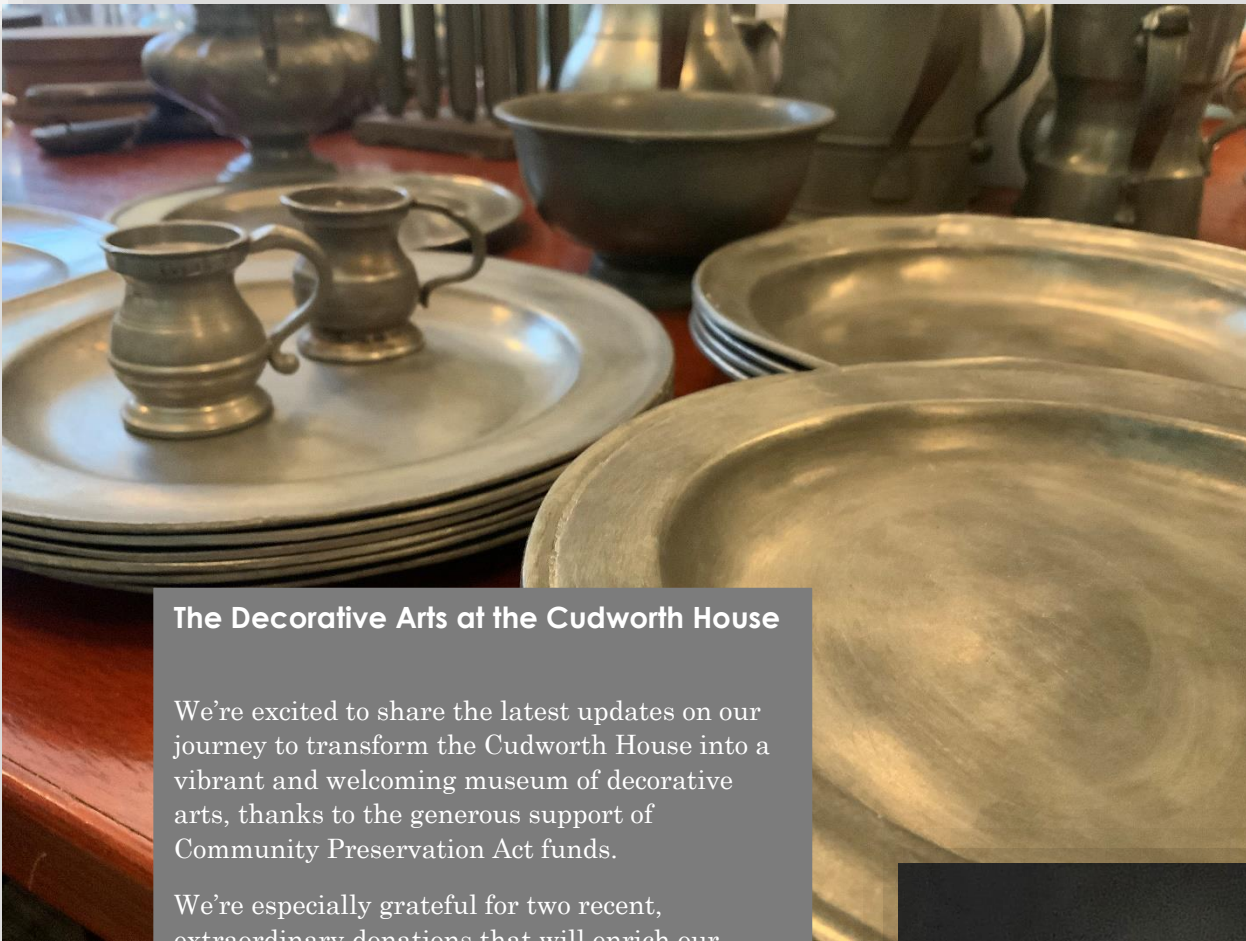
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coming soon...



Cudworth House
Museum of Decorative Arts





The Decorative Arts at the Cudworth House

We're excited to share the latest updates on our journey to transform the Cudworth House into a vibrant and welcoming museum of decorative arts, thanks to the generous support of Community Preservation Act funds.

We're especially grateful for two recent, extraordinary donations that will enrich our exhibits.

The Spear family of Maine, descendants of Captain Thomas Turner of Scituate, gifted us treasured items from Turner's granddaughter, Joanna Turner Whitman. These items include a rare portrait of Joanna by Rufus Hathaway, a stunning Hepplewhite card table, and a striking Windsor desk – all from the late 1700s.

Additionally, the late Mrs. Dorothy Faulkner of Scituate, who recently passed away at age 99, lovingly bequeathed her collection of antiques to the Society. Her cherished collection of pewter will be proudly displayed in the Cudworth House, just as Dorothy wished.

This project is truly a community effort. We can't wait to welcome you to experience the Cudworth House as it comes to life.

We will keep you posted on our progress!





Gratitude to Our Pillars of Support: Funding Acknowledgments

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Scituate Cultural Council, N.E.L.L., the South Shore Playhouse Association, and the wonderful citizens of Scituate for their unwavering support through Community Preservation Act funds.

Bob Brand

It is with extremely heavy hearts that we write of the recent sudden passing of one of our most dedicated and beloved volunteers.

Bob Brand was a fixture at the Schoolhouse on Saturdays for many, many years – welcoming the public with a huge smile and a helping hand. His love of historical research, Scituate, and the public will be sorely missed.

Bob was a treasured friend!



We are truly grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring community.

We look forward to sharing this new season together.



See you soon at the Schoolhouse!
