

Volume 1, No. 1
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Millbury Bicentennial News

The party starts June 11 2012 and ends July 4th, 2013

A message from the Bicentennial Committee

Welcome to our first eNewsletter

Greetings and welcome to our first Millbury Bicentennial eNewsletter. Here, you will find stories about the history of Millbury written by local townspeople, updates and information on what is happening with the Millbury Bicentennial project and also ways to get involved in this historic event. Our eNewsletter will be published quarterly and will be emailed to subscribers, posted on our website, www.Millbury2013.com and also posted on our Facebook site. Your feedback and support is greatly appreciated. You can contact us via email at Millbury2013@gmail.com. I hope you enjoy the first edition. Cheers!



Get your official Millbury Bicentennial commemorative items and apparel at the Millbury Bicentennial store inside Ray's True Value on Howe Ave in Millbury.

Bicentennial Literature Projects

by Carole Chiras, Chairman, History Committee, Millbury Bicentennial Committee

The rich history of Millbury began well before it became a town on June 11, 1813. Prior to that date it was the North Parish of Sutton, Massachusetts. Since 1813, collecting and documenting the history of Millbury is the prime task of the Bicentennial History Committee. Preserving such history is our goal but that is second to discovering more of the history of our town, Millbury. To achieve this goal we have devoted our time to collecting photographs and memorabilia that reflect the growth of our community. From an industrial section of Sutton to an important crossroad in Massachusetts, the history of Millbury continues to impress and amaze those of us researching it through oral history, acquaintances and accidental discovery. Thus far we have held two Memories of Millbury Past (Discovery Days) whereby we encourage people to allow us to scan their personal photographs and photograph any items that they might own. We understand that these items have great value to the families who own them and only wish to quickly borrow them for preservation and reproductive purposes. The response has been wonderful and we thank you for your tremendous support. All copies will eventually become the property of the Millbury Historical Society.

Other projects that we are working on include the reprint of the 1813-1913 Annual of Millbury, Massachusetts. If you are fortunate to own a copy of that treasured book, we are sure you find it to be an item you choose to share with future generations of your family. Now you have the opportunity to purchase a copy of this book for \$75. as a result of the efforts of Karen Gagliardi. The books are presently on sale throughout the town.

Chris Sinacola has graciously committed himself to helping us publish a picture book of Millbury through the Arcadia Press. Copies of such books presently exist while they focus on areas in the region. Many communities are represented as well as sites of interest such as White City, Sutton, etc. Before our Centennial celebration, 2013, Millbury will be included in the list of media as having their own publication. The photos collected at the Memories of Millbury Past aid us greatly in achieving this task.

A local professional photographer, Edd Cote, is working on a book that will depict Millbury: A Day in the Life of Millbury. This exciting book will be a collection of photographs of local individuals who live and work in Millbury as they go about their daily tasks. Edd and other members of the committee is working very hard. They will be taking the photographs this Fall and getting them into a format available to the community.

There is a great deal happening in Millbury. Three years may seem like a long time but in preparation of this grand event, time is flying. We encourage you to join us as we strive to collect data for our children and preserve the history that makes us Millbury.

www.Millbury2013.com



Some Interesting Millbury History

The History of the Millbury Federated Church

by Brian Ashmankas

Most Millbury residents are aware of a white church on Main Street situated between the Millbury National Bank and nearby Church Street which is named for it. Many are even aware of its status as a church for two distinct denominations and its many service projects, most notably the Lord's Builders who annually help to rebuild churches destroyed by vandalism. But few are aware of the rich details of its history.

The Millbury Federated Church has gone by many names in its 182-year history. In 1828 it was founded as the First Presbyterian Society Meeting House, when 40 members of the First Congregational Church, led by Asa Waters II, split from that church amidst tensions between masons and antimasons. This new parish's charter prevented new members from joining without affirmation from a majority of its current members, insulating it from outside influence. Interestingly enough, the church remained Congregational in practice, despite its name, and would be renamed the Second Congregational Church in 1835.

The church was originally a very simple building. It had no stain glass windows and was essentially one story, although it did have a small basement level that was rarely utilized by the congregation. Its most unique feature was perhaps that the pews faced the entrance, rather than the conventional rear of the church. An organ was secretly transported and installed in the winter of 1843. Soon afterward in 1851, a conference room was added to the basement for Sunday school and prayer meetings. In 1862, the pews were reversed at the urging of Asa H. Waters, despite significant resistance from pew owners.

In 1884 the basement was enlarged to include a kitchen and a room whose name would come to stick as the "ladies' parlor," despite several attempts by parishioners to rename it to better describe its purpose. The first major renovation would occur in 1893. It was likely during this renovation that the stain glass windows were added to memorialize important members of the congregation. Then around the turn of the century a further extension was added to the northern section of the basement. It was also around this time that William Howard Taft repeatedly visited Millbury and attended the church with his mother and aunt, Louisa Torrey and Delia Torrey respectively.

In 1919, the Federated Church was officially formed when the Methodist Episcopal Church joined the Second Congregational Church under the latter's roof. Despite the joining of the two congregations, each group maintained separate membership rolls and each elected three of the six members of the board of management, an arrangement still in place today.

A further series of changes occurred in 1947, when the congregation hired an architectural firm to redesign the vestry, add a kitchen, and replace the boiler; a project that was completed and dedicated the following year. Then in 1951, the Church was bequeathed a house and a large monetary legacy by late member Harold Buck Proctor. The church now had the resources to consider further growth options, including the purchase of the Howard house to the east for use as Sunday school classrooms and the Harrington house, which would be razed to provide parking. A new parish house would also be completed in 1965. The most recent changes include the removal of the steeple in 2006 for safety reasons and the renovation of the aforementioned ladies' parlor in 2009, almost entirely through volunteer work.

Just fifteen years after Millbury split from Sutton, the church that would one day become the Millbury Federated Church came into being. Today it is a fixture in the center of town and from Asa Waters II to William Howard Taft it has been intertwined with the rich history of Millbury which we will be celebrating with its bicentennial in 2013.

The Mission of the Millbury Bicentennial Committee

The Millbury Bicentennial Committee, as formed in 2008, will coordinate the historic significance of the town over the past 200 years through a yearlong celebration for all residents.

This celebration will commence in 2012 and culminate in 2013 and will commemorate the town's heritage, celebrate the town's history and enhance community pride.

Beginning June 11, 2012 and ending on July 4, 2013, Millbury, Massachusetts, will be commemorating its 200th anniversary with many celebratory events and activities. Residents, organizations and businesses are encouraged to participate in events and/or donate to the cause.

This special anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate Millbury's history and heritage and to foster a sense of pride in our community. Join us as we celebrate the rich history and the amazing contributions of the individuals and organizations that have made Millbury what it is today.

2013 is our year to promote and celebrate. We look forward to celebrating Millbury's 200th birthday with you!

How to Participate

Currently the Millbury Bicentennial Committee is gathering names of persons and organizations that would like to participate in the planning and execution of the Millbury Bicentennial Celebration.

Please provide the following information and as events are determined we will be contacting those that have offered their time and expertise.

Name _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____
 Phone _____

Please indicate the sub committee(s) you would like to volunteer for:

◇ Media ◇ Events ◇ History ◇ Fund Raising

Please return this card to:
 Office of the Town Manager
 Millbury Bicentennial Committee
 127 Elm Street
 Millbury, MA 01527

