



CHARLESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

March 2007

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New Museum Set to Open with Flag Day Ribbon Cutting

After more than a year of construction, improvements to the Monument and the new Bunker Hill Museum are nearly complete.

According to Ruth Raphael, Project Manager with the National Parks Service, the monument is set to reopen in April. The museum, approximately 85% complete, will reopen with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, 2007.

The new museum will house over 4000 square feet of exhibit space. On the first floor of the museum are restrooms, a kitchen, and a community meeting room. Arthur Hurley, President of the Charlestown Historical Society expects that this space will be regularly used by the community and the Historical Society for historical and cultural events.

The second floor of the museum will house displays on the monument's history and construction, exhibits on Charlestown's history and cultural heritage, and a gift shop. The top floor will house the Historical Society's new office and archives room, and displays on the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Third-floor displays include the diorama that was originally located in the monument's lodge and a new cyclorama depicting the battle. The diorama which is a scale model of the battle field will feature new sound and light enhancements. The cyclorama, a reproduction of one painted in the late 1800's, offers the visitor a 360 degree view of the battle field.

According to Hurley, "This spring, when we receive a certificate of occupancy, we will conduct a special sneak preview of the museum for Historical Society members".

The museum's \$2 million restoration is being funded by the National Parks Service and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Free and Accepted Masons. The museum will be managed by the Parks Service in partnership with the City of Boston and the Historical Society.

Several gala events are planned for the museum's opening. Anyone interested in helping plan these events, or volunteering at the museum should contact Arthur Hurley at 617-242-2724.

Visit the Historical Society website and see pictures of the renovation. www.CharlestownHistoricalSociety.org

The Charlestown Militia to March Again

After a 30-year hiatus, the Charlestown Militia, a colonial military reenactment group, is reforming its ranks and looking for a few good men, women and children.

The Charlestown Militia was established in 1636 as the Middlesex Regiment. It was one of the first permanent militia groups established in the colony. They were given the right to bear arms by the King of England in defense against any foreign enemy. On April of 1775, the militia saw action at the battle of Lexington and Concord. These

valiant citizen soldiers were part of the main force that fought and died at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

In the fall of 2006, The Charlestown Militia was revived as a living history group dedicated to keeping alive the memory of those brave patriots who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



In modern times, the Militia will continue their history through historical interpretation, military encampments, and battle reenactments.

The Militia, now with 16 members, is currently looking for more participants to join them to portray Militia, camp followers, or local merchants and craftsmen who would have been in Charlestown during May 1775.

An open house at Memorial Hall on Green Street is planned for the spring. For more information, contact Tom Coots at 617-242-0380.

2007 Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Tel. _____

Email _____

Annual Membership Fee:

Individual, \$25 Junior (13-19 yrs.), \$10

Family, \$35 Senior (65 yrs. and over), \$10

Additional Donation (tax exempt)

\$ _____

Please make check payable to:

Charlestown Historical Society

P.O. Box 291776

Charlestown, MA 02129

This is a:

New Membership

Member Renewal

I'm Interested in:

Newsletter Membership

Special Events Curatorial

Exhibits Gift Shop

Programming Grant Writing

Fund Raising Hospitality

Public Relations

Information Technology

Legal, Finance, Insurance

Historical Education

Other _____

Membership good through December 31, 2007

Historical Society Holds Screening of “Green Square Mile” Documentary March 8

The next meeting of the Charlestown Historical Society will be held at Bishop Lawton Hall, St. Francis De Sales Church, 303 Bunker Hill Street, March 8, at 7:00 PM.

Members and guests will be treated to an exclusive showing of the Historical Society’s recent documentary “The Green Square Mile: Story of the Charlestown Irish”.

A discussion on the making of the film with Ed Callahan, the film’s narrator; producer Maureen McNamara; and Dan Casey, screen writer and local Irish historian will follow the screening.

The documentary follows Charlestown’s history from its settlement to contemporary times. With an Irish perspective, the viewer relives history through the eyes of local Charlestown residents and local historians.

The film will become a regular presentation at the new Bunker Hill Museum in June.

Over the past several years, the Society has exhaustively researched the entire history of the Irish presence here in Charlestown, producing a massive amount of historical data.

This data reflects the fact, that in no small measure, the story of the Charlestown Irish mirrors the wider experiences of the Irish in America. The story of the Charlestown Irish is the story of the Irish in America.

Attendees will be able to order personal copies of the documentary at the event.

Members are encouraged to bring a friend who may be interested in joining the Historical Society.

Society Forms New Study Groups

To address the diverse interests of its membership, the Historical Society has formed several new study groups:

Battle of Bunker Hill

Colonial History

Irish History

Military History

Sports History

Bunker Hillbillies

The purpose of these groups, according to CHS President Arthur Hurley, is to support study and research in the areas that are of most interest to our members. Hurley hopes that the findings of these groups will be used to develop new exhibitions in the museum and build the Society’s archives.

Anyone interested in joining one of these groups should contact the Historical Society at 617-242-2724.

Call for Museum Volunteers

When the Bunker Hill museum opens in June, the Charlestown Historical Society will need many volunteers to help plan opening ceremonies, coordinate museum programs, and organize activities.

The following opportunities exist for Society volunteers:

Fundraising
Publicity
Programming
Hosts / Tour Guides
Exhibits Planning
Librarian / Archivist
Information Technology
Merchandising / Gift Shop
Marketing / Communications
Membership

For more information on volunteering, please Call Arthur Hurley at 617-242-2724, or visit the Historical Society’s website at www.CharlestownHistoricalSociety.org.



CHARLESTOWN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 291776
Charlestown, MA 02129

SAVE THIS DATE!

Membership Program
“Green Square Mile” Documentary
March 8, 2007
7:00 PM
Bishop Lawton Hall,
St. Francis De Sales Church

Upcoming Events

- Green Square Mile Program
- Charlestown Militia Organizational Meeting
- Speaker Series—Middlesex Canal, Charlestown Prison, “Last to Leave the Field: The Battle at Bunker Hill”, and Charlestown and WWII
- Museum Grand Opening & Gala

Check the Charlestown Patriot Bridge for future dates, times, and locations.

Visit the Society's Website...
www.CharlestownHistoricalSociety.org