



Local Lore

October, 2014 Issue 111

The Topsfield Historical Society Newsletter

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We CAN Achieve Victory

To support the war effort, a Community Canning Club was established in 1917. For payment of 50 cents club members could choose to:



-Order and buy from the Club any finished product at 4% discount from the regular retail price.

-Send vegetables, with or without jars, to the Club to be put up at actual cost of labor, plus 20% for overhead.

-Do their own work at the Club and profit by Mrs. Smerage's advice, at a charge of two cents per jar, for the use of the container.

The total output during the summer was approximately 3,000 jars of fruits and vegetables, 1800 glasses of jelly, and 500 pounds of jam. The record output for one day, six people working, was 184 jars and 45 pounds of jam.

In observance of "Soldiers' Week" in October, one hundred and twenty-three gallons of jam were produced and taken to the Fort Devens hospital.

Do We Have Your Email?

If you do not receive emails from the Society please email topsfieldhistory@juno.com

At the September Society meeting Norm was surprised by a celebration commemorating his 25th anniversary as president. A presentation



describing the highlights of his presidency included mention of the building of the Shoemaker's Shed, the Gould Barn, and the Caretakers Cottage, as well as a doubling in membership. Peggy was also recognized for her 12 years as Gould Barn Manager. They were presented with commemorative gifts and a beautiful photo cake was enjoyed by all who attended. **Congratulations!**

WWI and Topsfield

Sixty individuals from Topsfield served during WWI, including 2 women. Helen Jordan left for France in 1916 followed by Alice Lake in May 1917. Both were nurses and remained in France for the duration of the war. Two Topsfield men died in France. John Joseph Farwell died of pneumonia and is buried in the American military cemetery in Beau Desert. Robert Lake was killed in action in September of 1918.

In 1920 the town appropriated \$600 for the memorial tablet on Veterans Memorial Green opposite the library which reads "In honor of the men and women of Topsfield who helped restore peace to a world at war 1914-1918." The last WWI veteran died in the UK this past year.

Editor: Anne H. Barrett
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Upcoming Events

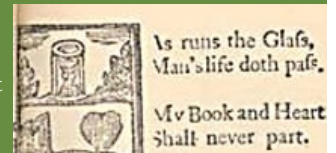
October 17, 7:30 PM
Haunted Lighthouses of New England

October 26, 2 to 4 PM
Witches Roost
Halloween Party for Children

November 14th, 7:30 PM
Theater in America: Banned to Bawdy

Kid's Corner

By Hannah Barrett



It's that time of year again; pencils, notebooks, whiteboards and the ABC's taped up on the classroom wall. These ABC's you may see in your classroom usually have cute little pictures of an apple with a worm for A, maybe a bumblebee for B, and a cat for C. The ABC's weren't so fun and friendly in the time of the Puritans, when each letter was accompanied by a religious, sad, scary rhyme. For example the letter G might have the rhyme: "as runs the glass, man's life doth pass." referring to an hourglass's passing time, and coming nearer and nearer to death. Or for the letter F: "The idle fool is whipt at school." Puritan children would be taught these rhymes to remember their alphabet from a young age, and their lesson-books would be filled with them, along with eerie black and white sketches. The Puritans did not tolerate children fooling around and just being kids, they quickly made their children serious, realistic, and diligent workers. Now, kids can be kids and enjoy colorful, funny pictures on their alphabets and lesson-books!